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COMMENT OF THE DAY

NATO Strength

THE world remains in ignorance of the decisions reached last week by the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. M. Bidault as President of the Council contented himself with a generalised statement which did not go much beyond reaffirming that agreement had been reached on principles, though he did make a vague reference to the acceptance of the proposition that a more determined effort to utilise national resources for the building up of West European defences was required. This is probably NATO's most urgent and intricate problem. Many believe that the growth of Allied armed forces in Europe has come to a stop too soon. All members of the North Atlantic Treaty, including the United States, feel they are now paying as much or more than they can afford for military purposes. Hence, although new aircraft and arms will make the forces stronger in future, their total size is now near its limit. That limit has arrived earlier than expected. Nevertheless the forces today total about 30 per cent less than the goal set by General Eisenhower, and while his present-day successor, General Gruenther is able to claim that West Europe is now militarily strong enough to resist aggression, he too clearly feels that a further effort is required before NATO can regard itself as being sufficiently defensively strong. The worst gaps today are in the active air forces and the reserve ground forces. The air squadrons are not sufficiently numerous to match the MIGs. The ground reserves are too few, too badly organised, and too little trained. Thus obviously one of the dominant questions which occupied the attention of the NATO Council last week was how these gaps could be filled and whether means could be found to meet the annual cost of upkeep. Moreover satisfactory answers must be found if three years of hard work and good progress are not to be wasted. At the present Russia probably has no thought of immediate aggression, but her future intentions are bound to be conditioned in part by the state of Western defences. If these defences are left with large gaps the Soviet Government may be tempted to risk an attack. That is something which must be prevented.

LANIEL LIKELY TO WIN TODAY

Ninth Ballot For French Presidency

Versailles, Dec. 20. Supporters of the candidature of the French Premier, M. Joseph Laniel, in the present French Presidential elections, are convinced that, in the final analysis, he will emerge victorious—and that this victory might well be seen tomorrow (Monday) when the results of the ninth ballot are announced.

In the eighth round, M. Laniel still needed 22 votes for an absolute majority. And this followed an improvement of 23 votes in the seventh ballot. In the last ballot, a total of 92 votes were cast in favour of non-declared candidates—enough, if there is a swing in favour of M. Laniel, to tip the scales in his favour.

But, against this optimism in favour of M. Laniel, it is pointed out here that many votes are going to other candidates in an obvious endeavour to bring in "new blood" into the election.

The Radicals are strongly in favour of this and they consider M. Laniel's candidature to be "right-wing" and unsupportable. So far, however, this "third man" has not been found and the chances are that M. Laniel, by dint of staying power, may wear down his present opponents.

The marathon French Presidential election, started last Thursday, ended its fourth indecisive day today when an unprecedented eighth ballot failed to give any candidate the required absolute majority to make him President of France in succession to 89-year-old President Vincent Auriol.

RISE IN CLAMOUR

Meeting amid a rising clamour from the whole of the French press for a change of tactics, the Congress of Versailles (the Council of the Republic and the National Assembly) tonight sent the present French Premier, M. Joseph Laniel, into a higher-leader bracket with 430 votes but failed to prevent the holding of a ninth ballot which will carry the election into its fifth day and which, at the present, shows no signs of producing decisive results.

The ninth ballot will take place at 2 p.m. GMT on Monday.

Official results of the eighth ballot were: M. Joseph Laniel (Independent Conservative), 430 votes; M. Marcel Edmond Naegelen (Socialist), 381; former Premier M. Antoine Pinay, 25; M. Louis Jacquinot (Minister of Overseas Territories), 14; others, 53. Total number of votes was 910 with 903 valid. The absolute majority required was 452.

Both M. Pinay, who is a member of M. Laniel's party, and M. Jacquinot were not declared candidates.

CHANCES BRIGHTER

The chances of M. Laniel, who has led all ballots since the third, stood brighter tonight as he fell short of the absolute majority required by only 22 votes, but with many votes going to non-declared candidates there was still no sign of a decisive result.

Events in the longest Presidential election in French history tonight saw the withdrawal of the Radical candidate, M. Jean Medecin, who is Mayor of Nice. As a result of his decision, which was taken in order to support the candidature of a Union nominee in an attempt to break the deadlock, the Radicals were given freedom of choice to vote for any candidate.

But it was also understood that a deputation of Radicals intended to approach M. Laniel and impress on him the difficulty of any candidate at the present securing an absolute majority.

The Radicals held the view that M. Laniel should step down in favour of another independent, possibly M. Jean Moreau (Secretary of State for Air) who would be better placed to benefit from votes which had been placed behind former Radical candidates, M. Yvon Delbos and M. Medecin.

Strong support, however, for M. Laniel came from the orthodox and splinter co-Gaullist groups (URAS and ARS) and the Peasant Independents.

REJECT APPEAL

In a published communiqué, the de Gaulle groups turned down an appeal to approach President Vincent Auriol to stand for re-election as the sole candidate and emphasised the fact that in the eighth ballot M. Laniel had polled 407 votes—an absolute majority of votes cast by all non-Communist parties out of a total 753 votes.

The communiqué urged support of M. Laniel and branded the Socialist backing of M. Naegelen as permitting the Communists "virtually to dictate" the election.

In face of this, the Socialists made it clear that M. Naegelen would remain in the running.

Chairman of the moderate Independent Republican group in the National Assembly, M. Pierre Garret, stated tonight that as M. Laniel had polled more than half of the votes cast by the National Republican parties in the latest ballots, his group would continue to support the Premier's candidature.

Others to come out in support of M. Laniel included the Independent Peasant group and the Republican Centre of Rural and Social Action of the Council of the Republic.—France-Press.



Political Crisis Looms In Italy

Rome, Dec. 20. A political crisis loomed in Italy tonight as Signor Giuseppe Pella, the Italian Prime Minister, gave notice that he expected the Christian Democrat Party—the largest party in Italy—to make clear their attitude towards him.

The Christian Democrats say that when Signor Pella—himself a Christian Democrat—formed his Government four months ago, he neither sought nor obtained formal recognition by the Party that his Cabinet was an expression of its policies.

Signor Pella is uncontentable at the moment, and his demand to define their attitude was made known through a spokesman. It followed three Government deputes in the Chamber of Deputies, generally regarded as indicating that Signor Alcide De Gasperi, the Christian Democrat leader and former Prime Minister, regards the Pella Cabinet as only a stop gap one.

As soon as Signor Pella comes out of retirement, an intensive period of consultations is expected. If he fails to obtain satisfaction from the Christian Democrat Executive, he will presumably resign.

CONFUSION

Signor Pella's demand for clarification appeared to have thrown the Christian Democrat Executive into great confusion. After hours of consultations and vain attempts to contact the Prime Minister, a statement indirectly emerging from the Executive said Signor De Gasperi and his colleagues had not meant to indicate they did not support the Pella Government.

The statement then said that Signor Pella had not sought recognition for his Cabinet as expressing Christian Democrat policies.

Main grievance of the Party Executive was stated to be Signor Pella's growing reliance on the support of right wing Monarchists.

In the June elections, the coalition of centre Parties led by Signor De Gasperi won less than half the nation's votes, with over half going to the Communist-led left and Neo-Fascists. The centre coalition groups themselves lack unity.

Today Signor Pietro Nenni, veteran Socialist leader, hitherto closely allied with the Communists, renewed his offer of support to a Christian Democrat Government.—Reuter.

Separated Twin Leaves Hospital

Chicago, Dec. 20. Rodney Doe Brodie, separated from his Siamese twin in an historic operation a year ago, left the hospital for the first time today to go home for Christmas.

The 27-month-old boy has been in the hospital since he was six weeks old. A year ago, last Thursday physicians performed the famous operation that separated him from his twin, Roger, who later died of a brain tumor.

The assistant medical officer, Surgeon-Lieutenant Commander A.P.M. Nichol, is transferred from HMS Sheffield by chair-line to the Royal tour liner Gothic to administer the anaesthetic for an emergency operation for acute appendicitis on a member of the "Gothic crew, Mr Harry Hayden, of London.—London Express.

Protest Over Caning Sentence

Johannesburg, Dec. 20. There has been an outcry in South Africa over the sentence of six strokes of the cane on a European motorist, who killed an African cyclist.

At Bethlehem, in the Orange Free State, a stronghold of the Boer's traditional feudal attitude to natives, Jan Madeneze was run down by a car driven by a 23-year-old white farmer, Jan Abraham Erasmus.

Erasmus was charged with murder—an allegation that he had "deliberately killed" the cyclist—but the Attorney-General reduced the charge to culpable homicide.

Erasmus, who had a previous conviction for reckless driving, pleaded at his circuit court trial in Bethlehem that a passenger in his car had accidentally joggled his arm, and he had run into Madeneze. He was found guilty.

THE JUDGE PLAYS PART. The Judge, Mr Justice Van Blerk, said liquor had played a part in the accident. He decided not to take away Erasmus's licence because if he did so, the farming community, among whom Erasmus was working as a tractor mechanic, would suffer.

"A fine in this instance would not be a suitable sentence," the Judge went on. "If I impose a fine, Erasmus's father, or whoever would pay it, would be the sufferer. I hope the sentence will be a lesson not only to the prisoner, but to other people."

The judge then ordered Erasmus to receive six strokes of the cane and sentenced him to twelve months' imprisonment, suspended for two years on condition that he does not commit a similar offence.

Says the Rand Daily Mail: Not much of a deterrent, nor is it anything like severe retribution.—France-Press.

PRISON FOR WOMEN SPIES

Berlin, Dec. 20. Three East German women have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, ranging from one and a half years to 15 years, for spying on Russian troops in the Soviet Zone, the official East German news agency ADN announced today.

All three were accused of supplying military and economic information to the "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity," a West Berlin anti-Communist organisation.

At the same time, a Communist Court in East Berlin sentenced nine East German youths to prison terms ranging from nine months to seven years, for attempting to crash the inter-sector border leading to West Berlin in trucks owned by suspects who had fled to the West.—United Press.

Operation On The Gothic

The World Prepares For Christmas

London, Dec. 21. A world still divided between East and West is preparing once again to celebrate Christmas in traditional fashion.

Some countries are looking forward to their best Christmas since the war. Others, lying under the shadow of war, terrorism or natural disaster, think mainly of the unhappy plight of whole sections of their population.

When the Christmas bells peal out over the Holy Land, birthplace of the Prince of Peace, they will ring along a border torn by strife and suspicion.

Across a no-man's-land between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, soldier glares at soldier, and even shepherds go armed. In nearby Greece, the sympathy of the population is with those Greeks who, rendered homeless by the earthquakes in the Ionian Islands, are still living in tents—their only shelter from pouring rain, wind and cold.

In Holland, too, thousands of people who lost all, or almost all, their possessions in the disastrous floods—last spring—are struggling to rebuild their lives on the reclaimed land.

On the other side of the world, New Zealand and Australia, in a state of high excitement at the approaching visit of their Queen, are expecting a boom Christmas.

Another member of the British Commonwealth of nations, Canada, is preparing for the most opulent Christmas in her history, and even Britons, emerging at last from the bleak austerity of the postwar years, hope for their tastiest most varied feast since 1939.—Reuter.

DETROIT POLICE RING CITY IN HUGE MANHUNT

Detroit, Dec. 20. One of the biggest manhunts in Detroit history is on today for five of the 13 convicts who escaped from Southern Michigan Prison last night. Roadblocks by the State Police ring the city. Hundreds of officers—some armed with machineguns—are hunting down the convicts, who took two women hostages at Jackson, Michigan. The women were released unharmed in Detroit early this morning.

The 13 prisoners cut their way out of the huge prison at Jackson with a blow torch. Seven were recaptured when their stolen car overturned not far from the prison. One is still believed to be hiding in that area.

The five hunted in Detroit invaded the home of Mr and Mrs Joseph Watts in Jackson after their break. After stealing civilian clothes, they took Mrs Watts and a visiting neighbour, Mrs Helen Gilbert, 31, with them and sped off in the Watts' Cadillac.

The women were released when the car finally ran out of gas after a wild night-long ride. The women described their captors as "almost perfect gentlemen". They said they were never threatened or harmed.

WELL TREATED

They were not bound or gagged, and Mrs Watts said they "treated us very well". Once, she said, the escapees even stopped to bring them coffee. And when they were set free, the convicts gave them a dollar to buy gas for the car. "They said goodbye to us as polite as can be," Mrs Watts told the police. "Their only warning was not to make up any bad stories about them."

The stolen Cadillac was found abandoned in the motor city. The kidnapped women said two of the men got out in northwest Detroit, where one police search is concentrated. Another force of officers is hunting in the Hemiklock area—a Polish suburb.

The other group of eight convicts, whose escape plans met with failure, used the same tactics as the hunted men in Detroit. They invaded the farm home of Mr and Mrs Glen Mc-

Millan—bound and gagged them and fled in the McMillan's Ford. Six were recaptured when the car overturned in an 80-mph chase by police near Jackson. Two of the convicts had abandoned their buddies before the crash and one of them was caught.

The other is still at large, making a total of six who so far have made good their escape from the world's largest walled prison, scene of a disastrous and sanguinary riot in April 1952.—United Press.

European Unification Favoured

Brussels, Dec. 20. A large majority of voters in two Belgian towns voted in favour of European unification today in Belgium's first unofficial "European" referendum.

The election was organised by the European movement in the towns of Roulers, West Belgium, and Vevey, in the eastern part of the country. Votes were cast at the polls just as in a general election, with officers of several parties to check the votes.

In Vevey more than 80 per cent of the 27,372 legal voters braved cold and rain to vote. 74.2 per cent of them in favour of European integration. In Roulers 83.4 per cent voted in favour and only nine decimal six per cent against.

Communists protested against the referendum and at the last moment today placed placards on polling booths urging people to vote against unification.—There were no incidents.—Reuter.

Delegates To Meet

Cairo, Dec. 20. The British and Egyptian delegations who were engaged in the recent unsuccessful negotiations between the two countries on the question of the Suez Canal Zone are to meet on Tuesday at a dinner party given at the Ezbeki Embassy, official sources said tonight.—France-Press.

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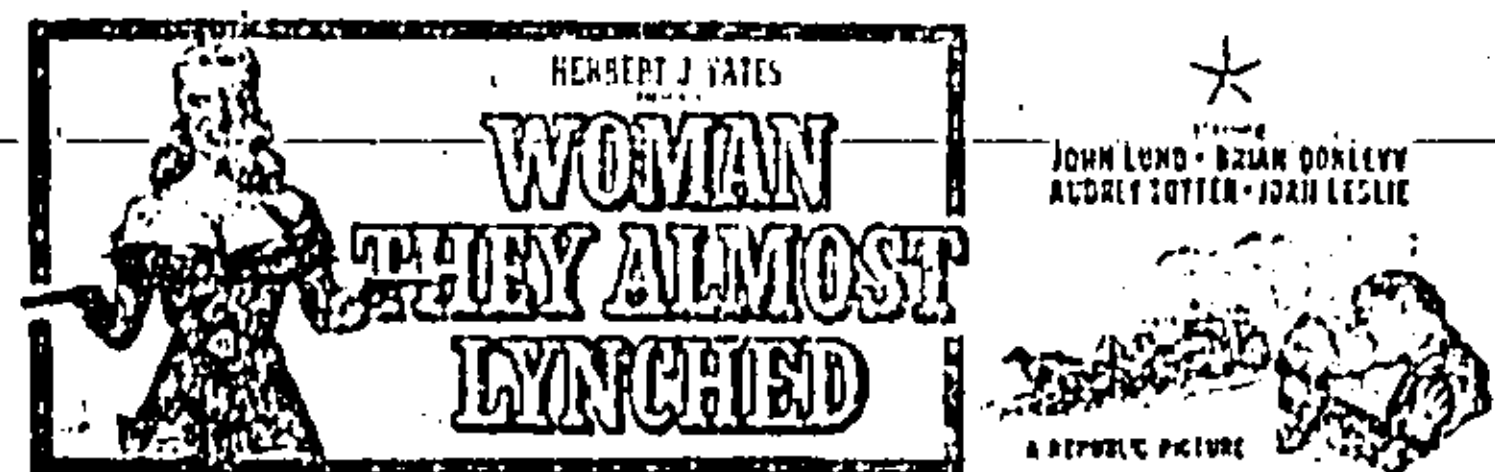
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OCCUPATION DEATH?

Singapore, Dec. 21. Relatives of a Chinese who disappeared during the Japanese occupation of Malaya yesterday found what they believed was his body—after one of the family persistently dreamed he saw the man's spirit hovering over a roadside embankment in Singapore. The relatives got permission to dig on the spot and the diggers found some bones and bloodstained canvas buried there.

Bey Kal Hong, a wealthy Chinese merchant, vanished from his home in March 1942 soon after the Japanese occupation of Singapore. It is believed he was killed at the Outram Road school, a former Gestapo depot.

Relatives today are having the remains analysed to see if they could be Bey's remains.—Reuter.

Peaceful World

Seattle, Dec. 20. Admiral Arthur Radford, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said here during a brief stopover last night that he would be peaceful next year "I hope."

He arrived by plane with the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Walter Robertson, on his way to the Far East.

They will arrive in Manila for the inauguration of the new Philippine President, Mr. Ramon Magsaysay, after visiting Korea, Formosa and Japan.—Reuter.

No Interest In China

Singapore, Dec. 21. A Chinese millionaire from Indonesia, whose family has lived in the country for three generations, returned through here today and said "there's no interest for most of Indonesia's two and a half million Chinese to go to Red China."

The millionaire, Kho Pih-siang, is Chairman of the Rice Millers Association of East Java, who with about 100 other Indonesian Chinese industrialists was invited to tour China by Communist leader Mao Tse-tung with all expenses paid by the Communist Government.

Kho added: "The Indonesian Chinese have no interest in China and there is no incentive which might tempt them back."

Commenting on trade possibilities, Kho said: "This is not the time for private investment. Private capitalists cannot do business on any socialist scale."

Kho is travelling on the liner Tjiuwah.—Reuter.

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British Officials Wait Final Stage Of Beria Case

London, Dec. 20.

British officials are now awaiting what they believe to be the next and final stage in the "Beria case"—a formal Moscow announcement that the former secret police chief has been shot.

Today's demands by the Moscow press for the death of Lavrenti Beria, once the second man in the Kremlin, meant in these officials' opinion that his execution and that of his six associates was imminent, if it had not already taken place.

Last week's announcement that the investigations against Beria and six other once prominent Soviet Communists had been completed "under procedure laid down by the law of December 1, 1934" and that the accused had all admitted their guilt, indicated that their end was imminent.

This law specified that no appeal should be allowed against the judgment, that the penalty should be "the highest measure of punishment," presumably death, and that it should be carried out immediately after the pronouncement of sentence.

The accused were to be tried in their absence, the law stated. The procedure would therefore be secret, as in the 1936 trial of Marshal Mikhail Tukachevsky and seven Red Army generals accused of plotting against Stalin, as opposed to the public sessions of the earlier "purge" trials.

The trial itself, under this procedure, would simply be a staging of pre-trial investigations, and the prisoners' only part in it would be to receive formal notification of the indication of the indictment against them 24 hours before.

If the charges were already in Beria's hands, as officials believe likely, he would have been shot last week if the law had been carried out exactly.

BASIC CRIME
Beria's basic crime, it is thought here, was that he sought the succession to Stalin and, with the secret police behind him, was feared as a dangerous rival by the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Georgi Malenkov.

This would explain the charge against him that he tried to get supreme power for the Ministry of Internal Affairs at the expense of the Communist Party, controlled by Mr. Malenkov and his brother-in-law, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev.

Other charges suggest that he stood for a more tolerant attitude towards the national tendencies of the outer Soviet republics, including Georgia, of which he and Stalin were natives, than was acceptable to the present regime in the Kremlin.

The succession feud probably began long before Stalin died last March, and the temporary enlarging of the Politburo during Stalin's last months is believed to have been one of the moves made by Mr. Malenkov to strengthen his hand.

DOCTORS' CASE
Another was the arrest of the doctors accused of plotting against Stalin's life. This made Beria's security police appear very inefficient.

But after the accused doctors were exonerated and released.

STALIN PEACE PRIZE

Moscow, Dec. 20. Pierre Cot of France, Howard Fast of the United States, Sakin Singh Sokhrmy of India and Andrea Andrei of Sweden were among the ten Stalin Peace Prize winners for this year, it was revealed here Sunday night.

The international committee, which met here to nominate the prize winners between December 9 and 12, was presided over by Dmitri Skobekzine. The other Stalin Peace Prize winners were Isabelle Blum (France), Andrea Gadjevo (Italy), John Bernal (Britain), Leon Kuchmoski (Poland), Pablo Enruba (Chile) and Nina Popova (Soviet Union).—France-Press.

PILGRIMAGE TO BURMA

Colombo, Dec. 20. The Ceylon Government is considering chartering a special steamer to transport pilgrims to Burma next April for ceremonies to commemorate the rewriting of the Tripitaka (Buddhist scriptures).

About 400 Buddhists have applied to the Home Ministry for permission to visit Burma for the occasion. The Burmese Government is stated to be making arrangements for different bodies to act as hosts to the pilgrims.—Reuter.

Iran Minister Freed

Tehran, Dec. 20.

Dr. Hassan Akhavi, former Minister of National Economy in the Mossadegh government who was gaoled following the disturbance here last August, was released today.

Two other politicians, Ahmad Amnour and Ali Akhavi, were released at the same time. Both were members of the Iranian Parliament.

Abdol Ghassem Bakhtiar, a member of the powerful Bakhtiari tribe which revolted against the authority under the Mossadegh government and who had been imprisoned, was today sentenced to four months in jail. Eleven others sentenced with him were freed.—France-Press.

Seoul, Dec. 20.

Korean Health Ministry officials said lack of funds was holding up plans for a campaign against tuberculosis.

Already 1,300,000 South Koreans are suffering from the disease and it was expected the figure would be much higher by the end of the winter.

Officials added that funds allocated under the budget had been barely sufficient to maintain the existing sanatoria and dispensaries — which can accommodate a total of only 3,000 patients.—Reuter.

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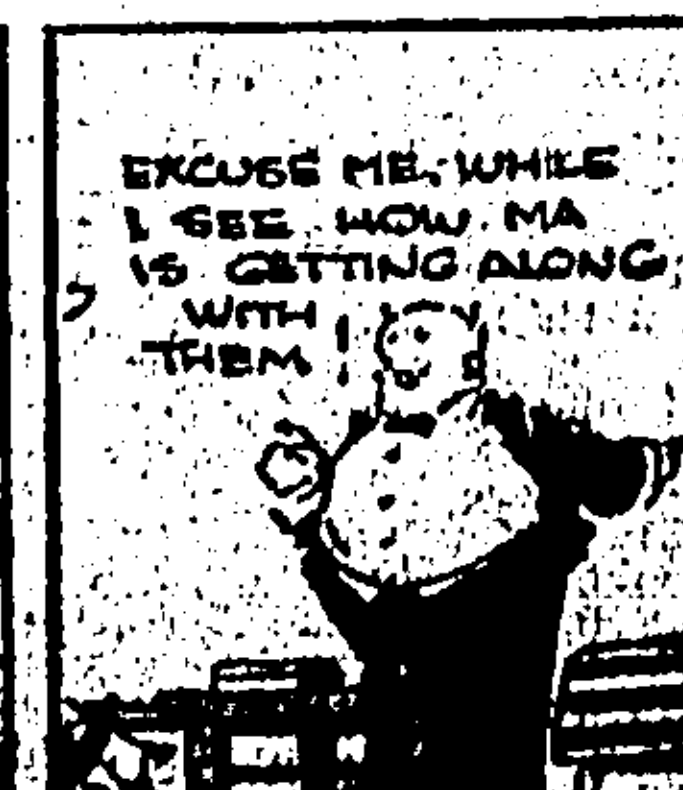
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KREMLIN CALL TO ARMS

Malaya Braces Itself Against New Red Threat

By PETER GRUANING.

Singapore, Dec. 20.

Terrorist-packed Malaya braced itself today for a new peninsula-wide campaign of Communist violence in the wake of a jungle Kremlin call to arms.

The announcement of the calm-shattering turnabout in Communist policy fell like a bomb-shell in the midst of this tropical rubber and tin-rich country's 6,000,000 residents.

Until this week the war-weary Malaysians had prepared hopefully for their sixth solemn "emergency" Christmas. During the year news of anti-Communist successes in Malaya's fetid jungles had been increasingly encouraging. Terrorist surrenders were up to a record high, incidents of violence had dropped during the spring and summer and attacks on this country's lifeline of rubber estates and tin mines had become sporadic and far between.

A steady flow of government propaganda releases cheered the country with "cautious optimism." Almost as an afterthought, Malaya's peopled High Commissioner, General Sir Gerald Temple, issued mild warnings that "the shooting war was not over yet."

But this week, while Communist leaders to the north in Indo-China sang Christmas carols of peace to French and Vietnamese officials in hopes of securing an armistice, Malaya's jungle swamps hidden banishes any of 6,000 guerrillas received orders to drop the olive branch and fire up a smouldering and puttering war.

OFFICIAL RELEASE

On December 18 the British government in Malaya reluctantly announced in a carefully worded official release that the Central Committee of the Malayan Communist Party had called upon its guerrilla forces for "intensified military training and more aggressive action." Simultaneously, word of stepped-up terrorist attacks, ambushes and pillaging was received from points throughout this spit of New York State which juts southward from Siam between the South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The new warlike Communist directive, apparently issued several months ago by the Red hierarchy, showed an apparent policy of concentrating on peaceful infiltration of Malaya's political and labour organisations. The new Red order of the day did not call for a halt to Communist creeping tactics on the civilian front, but declared that political infiltration should be accompanied by a bold new blazing of Sten guns, rifles and pistols from the jungles.

ADMISSION

In its announcement of revised Communist strategy in Malaya, the government did its best to soften the grim news. Buried deep in a regular communiqué the government admitted that "it is now known that the Central Committee of the Malayan

Communist Party some months ago called for intensified military training and more aggressive action by their armed forces." The communiqué added the official view that the Communist directive had been issued "in order to maintain their morale and keep their power in the public attention."

The government noted increasing terrorist violence during the past month with the explanation that this was quite normal because "Communist terrorist units are expected to celebrate the Russian October Revolution by at least one violent attack." The government added that the meeting of Communist leaders in the jungles of Pahang which produced the new war directive seemed to "lack the note of confidence which appeared in top-level directives of previous years."

REPEATED ATTACKS

Barbaric and barbed wire surrounded rubber plantations in the Rengam area of Johore thought otherwise. Just 35 miles north of Singapore Island a single band of Johore terrorists, estimated somewhere between 120 and 150, repeatedly attacked workers and plantations of the Ulu Remis rubber estate during the past 90 days.

In daring daylight raids on the 16,000-acre estate, the terrorists attacked plantations' bungalows, machine-gunned estate trucks and destroyed communication. Guerrilla gangs wantonly roamed neighbouring estates on the fringe of the jungle and fought 18 separate pitched battles with security forces since September. Regardless of government attempts to reduce jitter among Malayan planters, tin miners and city dwellers, the statistics were not encouraging.

LOSSES

Security forces in five and a half years of warfare have inflicted losses on Communist guerrillas totalling nearly 7,000 killed, wounded or captured but the numerical strength of the Malaya's Red army continued to stand at a constant 6,000. Communist replacements kept even with losses.

Since the first shot of the "emergency" was fired in June, 1948, more than 100,000 regular British and Malayan soldiers have been pinned down in this country at a stratospheric cost by a roving force of terrorists 20 times fewer in numbers.

After two years of comparative calm over Malaya, a new cloud-burst of violence appeared imminent if one were ready to believe the latest words of the Communist leaders themselves. Malayan observers saw little reason to doubt their meaning. United Press.

Yvonne De Carlo In Germany



American screen star Yvonne de Carlo has a "friendship" drink with film producer Arthur Brauner during a cocktail party held in her honour on her arrival in Berlin on her first visit to Germany. Yvonne, who came from London, is to star in "Star of Rio" to be made in the spring in Berlin and Brazil, and will be produced by Brauner.—Express Photo.

BASRAH STRIKE ENDED

Baghdad, Dec. 20.

The strike at the Basrah Petroleum Company was now completely ended, a company spokesman said today.

He added that all operations, including drilling, had been resumed and that the situation in Basrah was now calm.

AIR SAFETY PERSONNEL STRIKE

Paris, Dec. 20.

The Air Safety personnel strike which, since early yesterday afternoon has kept French air traffic down to a trickle threatened tonight to reduce the influx of tourists for the approaching Christmas season.

The strike for higher wages of control tower, radar and radio technicians which began at 1 p.m. yesterday had been called for an unlimited period of time. Much of the air-traffic to and from Paris has been cancelled.

AMERICAN COMPANIES

Two American companies, TWA and Pan American, yesterday shifted their terminals from Paris to Brussels and arranged for rail transportation for their passengers between the two cities.

Meanwhile, Air France was seeking to maintain flights when conditions of visibility permitted. Planes left this afternoon for New York, London, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and several other points. Several flights were tentatively planned for tonight, including flights to Saigon and Tokyo.—France-Press.

Damascus, Dec. 20. An official communiqué published here tonight announced the resumption of diplomatic relations between Syria and Japan.—France-Press.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN THAILAND

Bangkok, Dec. 20.

The expert committee from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, which had been appointed on the request of the World Bank, has approved as "the best scheme for Thailand" the hydroelectric project which Thailand has been working on at Yarn Hee for over three years.

The World Bank had given its agreement to the principle of the plan, but had asked the project to be studied by experts before making a final decision whether a loan would be granted or not to Thailand, as the latter had requested.

Now the World Bank's final acceptance of the loan is expected momentarily.

The Yarn Hee project is in charge of the National Energy Council of Thailand, with Mon-Luang Chueh Khamp, director-general of the Irrigation Department, as chief executive.

PRACTICABLE

The project was found practicable by the expert committee. It is for the supply of electric current to the northern and central provinces of Thailand, including Bangkok and its twin-city, Thonburi. Yarn Hee is situated in northern Thailand, in Tak Province.

The proposed dam across the Mae Ping River will be 116 metres high. The power capacity will be 300,000 kilowatts, enough to fill requirements over the next ten or 15 years, according to the experts.

The cost of the project will be 800 million baht, for local expenditure, and \$55,000,000 for foreign exchange expenditure (one dollar equals about 20 baht).—France-Press.

Fires In Japan

Tokyo, Dec. 20.

An average of 81 fires a day occurred in Japan during the first six months of this year, it was announced.

The National Fire Brigade headquarters registered in the period a postwar high of 14,723 fires—2,000 more than the corresponding period last year.

Damage amounted to 14,800 million Yen (\$14,800,000) during the period, or 81,780,000 Yen (\$81,780) a day.

Main causes of outbreaks were leaping flames from chimneys and children playing with fire.—Reuter.

Yugoslav POWs Released

Belgrade, Dec. 20.

Twenty Yugoslav citizens have been returned home after being held for more than eight years as prisoners of war in the Soviet Union and Hungary. Belgrade Radio reported today.

Some of them said they believed they owed their release to demonstrations staged on October 8 to demand repatriation. Hungarian guards opened fire and killed five prisoners during the demonstrations, they said.

Most of the returned prisoners belonged to the Hungarian minority in Yugoslavia and were fighting with the Hungarian army when captured by the Russians.—Reuter.

U.S. Must Import More Wool

New York, Dec. 20.

The United States will have to import more wool in 1954 if it hopes to avoid "the complete liquidation" of normal trade stocks, the Wool Bureau said today.

Forecasting an increase in domestic consumption next year, the Bureau said current wool stocks in the hands of mills and dealers "are abnormally low."

Consumption of apparel wool in U.S. wool textile mills during the first 10 months of 1953 was seven per cent higher than in the corresponding period in 1952.

However, the Bureau pointed out, consumption has been declining irregularly since June.

"A 28 per cent rise in the consumption of wool on the worsted system during the January-August period is nevertheless a heartening factor in the trend," it added.

NEXT YEAR

Total wool supplies next year will be lower than in 1953, reflecting "excellent clearance of this year's world wool clip and abnormal carry-overs from previous seasons."

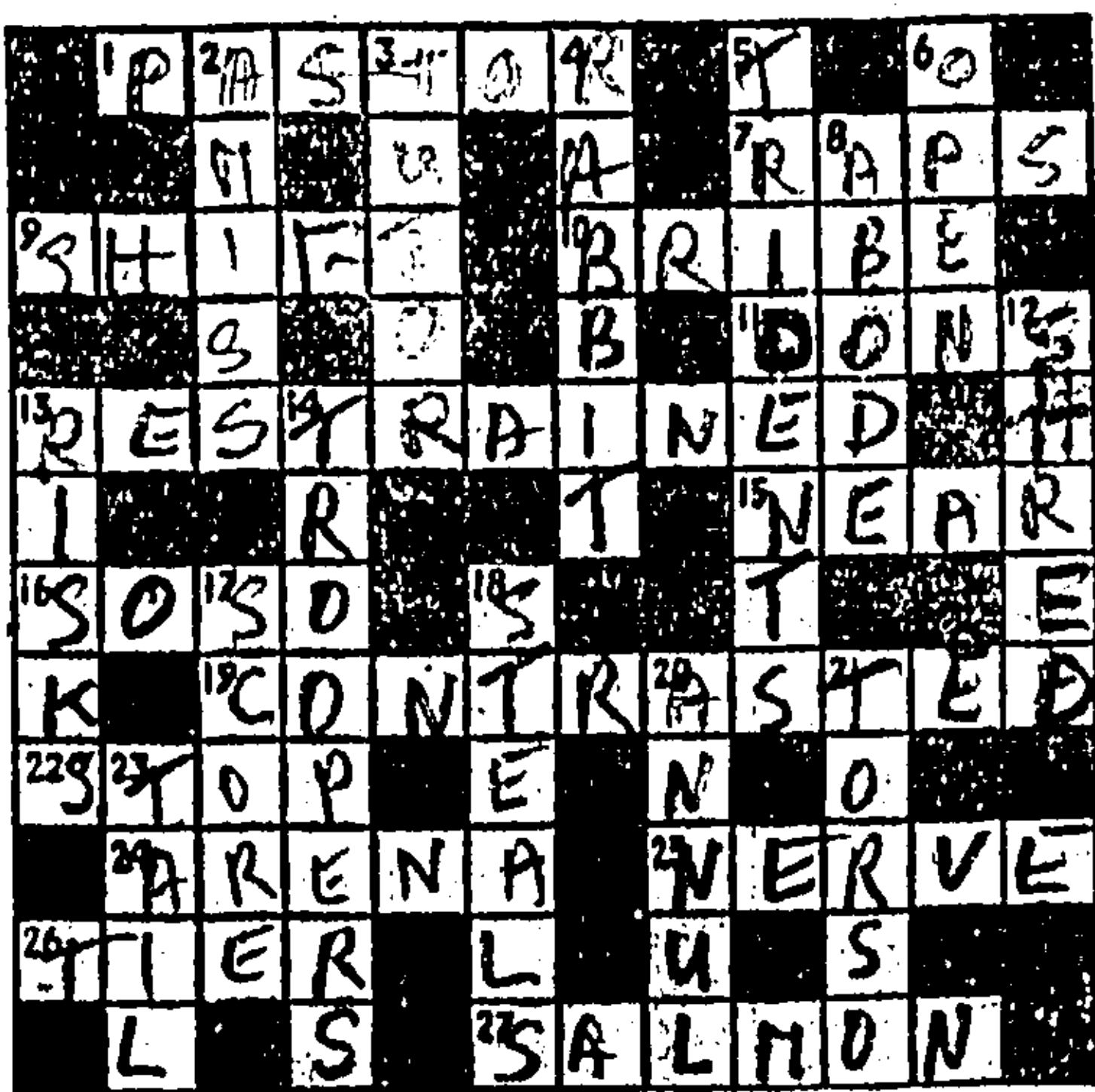
Consumption in major wool-consuming countries other than the United States should ease off from "the sustained high levels of the past year, and may already be reflected in the recent softening of prices in Dominion markets," the Bureau said.

"However the United States must raise its level of imports if it is to avoid complete liquidation of normal trade stocks."

Dutiable wool imports in the first eight months of this year were 21 per cent below the previous year. These imports were equivalent to 40 per cent of mill wool consumption against 72 per cent in 1952.

Wool tops imports during the period fell 65 per cent while imports of woollen apparel fabrics rose 13 per cent over a year ago.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- Minister (8).
 - Knocks (4).
 - Movs (5).
 - Corrupt (8).
 - Puts on (4).
 - Kept in check (10).
 - Close to (4).
 - Parable (8).
 - Showed differences (10).
 - Arrest (4).
 - Stadium (8).
 - Pluck (8).
 - Rank (4).
 - Fish (8).
- DOWN
- Wrong (5).
 - Teacher (5).
 - Animal (8).
 - Three-pronged sceptres (8).
 - Frank (4).
 - Residence (5).
 - Place taken off (8).
 - Hazards (5).
 - Mounted soldiers (8).
 - Number (8).
 - Purloins (6).
 - Cancel (5).
 - Trunk (8).
 - Appendage (4).

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"TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY" — CHAPTER 32

INCREASING FRICTION
OVER TRIESTE

Field-Marshal Alexander informed the Prime Minister on May 1, 1945, that he expected the Eighth Army to reach Trieste within the next 24 hours. Tito's regular forces had, he said, occupied most of Istria and were fighting in Trieste.

If he himself were ordered to occupy the whole of Venezia Giulia, this would mean "a fight with the Yugoslav Army, which will have at least the moral backing of the Russians." He added a warning of the feeling of British forces if asked to fight an Ally.

TITO'S troops had in fact entered Trieste on April 30 in the hope not only of securing the city and the surrounding area, but also of obtaining the surrender of the German garrison of 7,000 men with all its equipment. It was not until the afternoon of the following day that the Yugoslav forces made contact with the advance-guard of the 2nd New Zealand Division just west of Monfalcone.

On May 2 Gen. Freyberg and his New Zealand troops entered Trieste, took the surrender of the German garrison, and occupied the dock areas.

ON May 5 Alexander telegraphed: "Tito, now, finds himself in a much stronger military position than he foresaw when I was in Belgrade, and wants to cash in on it. Then he hopes to step into Trieste when finally I stepped out. Now he wants to be installed there and only allow me user's rights. We must bear in mind that since our meeting he has been to Moscow. I believe he will hold to our original agreement if he can be assured that when I no longer require Trieste as a base for my forces in Austria he will be allowed to incorporate it in his New Yugoslavia."

The last sentence of Alexander's message made it necessary for me to make our political view clear.

Unless you can make a satisfactory working arrangement with Tito the argument must be taken up by the Government. There is no question of your making any agreement with him about incorporating Istria, or any part of the pre-war Italy, in his 'New Yugoslavia.' That destiny of this part of the world is reserved for the peace table, and you should certainly make him aware of this."

In order to avoid leading Tito or the Yugoslav commanders into any temptation, it would be wise to have a solid mass of troops in this area, with a great superiority of modern weapons and frequent demonstrations of the Air Force as far as possible without hurling your advance in the direction of Vienna, which I am sure you are pressing with all possible speed.

I suppose you have cleared the approaches to Trieste so that you can soon have some strong naval forces there. Strength is safety and peace.

A WEEK later, on May 12, after the great events had happened in the West, there arrived from President Truman a most welcome and strong message. He said he was becoming increasingly concerned at Tito's actions in Venezia Giulia. Tito seemed to have no intention of abandoning the territory or letting this ancient problem await a general postwar settlement.

We must now decide, said the President, whether to uphold the fundamental principles of territorial settlement by orderly process against force, intimidation, or blackmail. If Tito succeeded he would probably claim parts of South Austria, Hungary and Greece.

Although the stability of Italy and her relations with Russia might be at stake, the present issue was not a question of taking sides in a dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia or becoming involved in Balkan politics, but of deciding whether Britain and America were going to allow their Allies to engage in uncontrolled land-grabbing or tactics which were all too reminiscent of Hitler and Japan.

We should insist, he urged, on Field-Marshal Alexander obtaining complete and exclusive control of Trieste and Pola, the line of communication through Gorizia and Monfalcone, and of a big enough area to the east to ensure proper administration. Mr. Truman said we should be prepared to consider any necessary steps to effect Tito's withdrawal. He also added

ad a draft message for our ambassadors to deliver to Belgrade. He suggested informing Stalin of our plans in accordance with the Yalta agreement, and concluded as follows: "If we stand firm on this issue, as we are doing on Poland, we can hope to avoid a host of other similar encroachments."

I need not say how relieved I was to receive this invaluable support from my new companion.

Prime Minister to President Truman 12 May 45
I agree with every word you say, and will work with all my strength on the line you propose. If the situation is handled firmly before our strength is dispersed Europe may be saved from another blood-bath. Otherwise the whole fruits of our victory may be cast away and none of the purposes of World Organisation to prevent territorial aggression and future wars will be attained.

I trust that a standstill order can be given on the movements of the American armies and Air Forces from Europe (to the Far East), at any rate for a few weeks. We will also conform in our demobilisation. Even if this standstill order should become known it would do nothing but good. It seems probable that a somewhat violent internal reaction at Washington followed the new President's bold telegram to me. The argument "Don't let us get tied up in Europe" had always been formidable. It had undoubtedly led to the Second World War through the ruin of the League of Nations by the withdrawal of the United States. It was now to play almost as deadly a part at a moment when the future hung in the balance.

THERE was also at this time the desire to finish off Japan by concentrating all available and suitable forces in the Far East. This was supported by the powerful school which had from the beginning set the Far East before Europe. My suggestion of a "standstill" or "standfast" order seems to have raised the issue abruptly in the President's circle. At any rate, his replies seemed couched in a somewhat different mood to that expressed in his telegram about Trieste.

On May 14 he said he preferred to see what happened before considering a continued, though temporary, occupation of the Soviet Zone in Germany by the Western Allies. As for the Yugoslavs, Mr. Truman declared that we should await reports about our messages to Belgrade before deciding what forces to use if our troops were attacked. Unless Tito did attack it was impossible to involve the United States in another war. Two days later he declared he was unable and unwilling to involve his country in a war with the Yugoslavs unless they attacked us, in which case we would be justified in using Allied troops to throw them back far enough to stop any further aggression.

Meanwhile the local situation around Trieste sharpened. At first Alexander would have been content if Tito had put his fighting and administrative troops under Allied command, at any rate in the areas where we were operating, though of course we would rather they withdrew completely. But Yugoslav posts and sentries were restricting our movements. Their behaviour, both in Austria and Venezia Giulia, made a bad impression on the Allied troops, both United States and British.

OUR men were obliged to look on without power to intervene at actions which offended their sense of justice, and felt that they were condoning wrongdoing. "As a result," cabled Alexander, "feeling against Yugoslavia is now strong, and is getting stronger. It is now certain that any solution by which they share an area with Yugoslav troops or Partisans or permitted Yugoslav administration to function would not work."

On May 19 I replied to the President. I hope you will not mind my putting to you, with great respect, the need for some further consideration of the words "a war with the Yugoslavs," and secondly "attack us." I do not envisage a war with the Yugoslavs, and short of war, I do not consider Ambassadors should be withdrawn. It is at critical junctures that Ambassadors should be on the spot.

Meanwhile, Tito's answer has arrived, and is completely negative. We clearly cannot leave matters in this state, and immediate action will now be necessary. Otherwise we shall merely appear to have been bluffing, and will in fact be bluffed out.

I think we should prevent the rough handling of our front-line troops, or infiltration of territory, or incursions contrary to the directions of the Allied commanders, and on a scale to endanger the position of our forces where they now stand.

In these conditions I should not consider action by Alexander to ensure the proper functioning of his Military Government as constituting "a war with the Yugoslavs." But I certainly think that pressure should be put upon them to quit Trieste and Pola and return to the lines marked out, and that this pressure should be regarded as in the nature of frontier incidents rather than as principal diplomatic decisions.

ON May 21 Mr. Truman said he agreed we could not leave matters as they were. We should reject Tito's answer and reinforce our troops at once so that the Yugoslavs should have no doubts about our intentions. He proposed that Eisenhower and Alexander should make a show of force by land and air, and time it to coincide with our rejection of Tito's demands. The

President thought that a heavy demonstration might bring Tito to his senses, but if hostilities began he doubted if they could be treated as frontier incidents. He accordingly sent me the text of appropriate instructions for Alexander and Eisenhower, but he ended his telegram with a revealing sentence: "I must not have any avoidable interference with the redeployment of American forces to the Pacific."

Prime Minister to President Truman 21 May 45
I am in entire agreement with the message you are issuing to Alexander and Eisenhower. I think there is a very good chance that, if our deployment is formidable, a solution may be reached without fighting. Our firm attitude in this matter will, I believe, be of value in our discussions with Stalin. It seems to me that the need for our Triple Meeting at the earliest moment is very great.

Gen. Morgan, Alexander's Chief of Staff, eventually agreed with the Yugoslav proposal of a line of demarcation around Trieste.

IT was not until a month had passed of increasing friction with the Soviets and with Tito that Stalin himself addressed me on the Yugoslav problem.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Yugoslav Government accepted the proposal of the American and British Governments with regard to the Istria-Trieste region, the conversations in Trieste seem to have reached deadlock. This is principally to be explained by the fact that the representatives of the Allied Command in the Mediterranean are unwilling to take account even of the minimum wishes of the Yugoslavs.

Yet the Yugoslavs earned the merit of liberating this territory from the German invaders, and in that territory moreover the Yugoslav population is in a majority. This position cannot be regarded as satisfactory from the point of view of the Allies.

In my desire not to make matters worse, I have hitherto not drawn attention in our correspondence to the behaviour of Field-Marshal Alexander; but now it is time to emphasise that I cannot accept the supercilious tone with regard to the Yugoslavs which Field-Marshal Alexander has occasionally adopted in these conversations.

It is absolutely unacceptable that Field-Marshal Alexander in an official and public message should allow himself to compare Marshal Tito with Hitler and Mussolini. Such a comparison is unjustified and offensive to Yugoslavia.

I replied: Prime Minister to Marshal Stalin 23 June 45
Our joint idea at the Kremlin in October was that

the Yugoslav business should work out around 50-50 Russian and British influence. In fact it is at present more like 90-10, and even in that poor 10 we have been subjected to violent pressure by Marshal Tito. So violent was this pressure that the United States and His Majesty's Government had to put in motion many hundreds of thousands of troops in order to prevent themselves from being attacked by Marshal Tito.

Great cruelties have been inflicted by the Yugoslavs on the Italians in this part of the world, particularly in Trieste and Fiume, and generally they have shown a disposition to grasp all the territory into which their light forces have penetrated.

The movement of these light forces could not have been made unless you for your part had made immense and welcome advances from the east and in the north, and unless Field-Marshal Alexander had held 27 enemy divisions on his front in Italy and finally reduced them to surrender.

I do not consider that it can be said that Marshal Tito has conquered all this territory. It has been conquered by the movements of far greater forces, both in the west and in the east, which compelled the strategic retreat of the Germans from the Balkans.

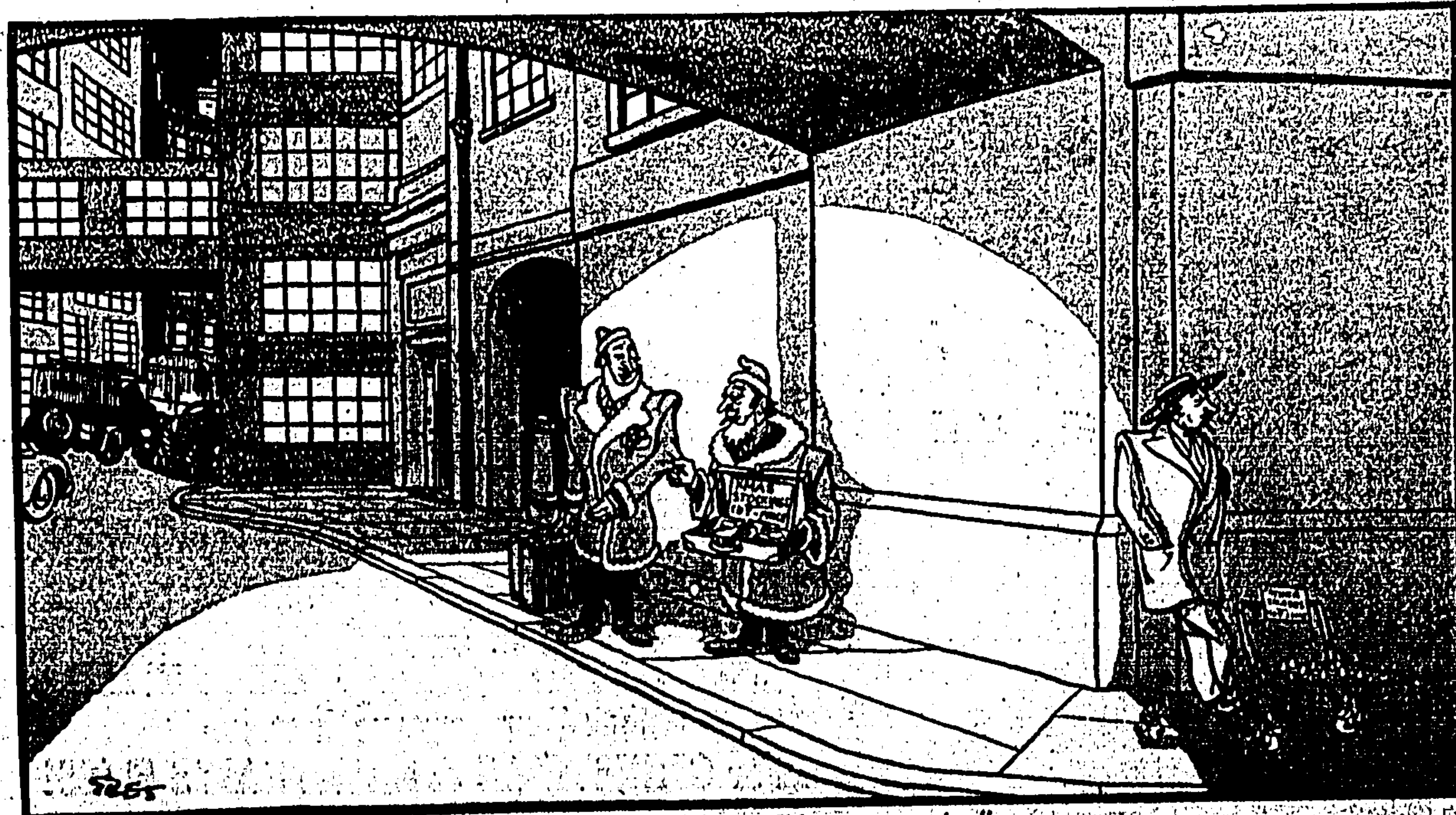
AT any rate, we have reached an agreement which it is proposed to enforce. We think that any permanent territorial changes should be settled at the peace table, and Marshal Tito is in no way prejudiced by accepting the present line which we demand until that meeting takes place. In the interval we can talk all these matters over together at Berlin.

The actual wording of Field-Marshal Alexander's telegram has been largely taken from the President's draft. We do not see why we should be pushed about everywhere, especially by people we have helped, and helped before you were able to make any contact with them. Therefore I do not see any reason to make excuses for Field-Marshal Alexander, although I was not aware that he was going to draft his telegram exactly in this way.

It seems to me that a Russian frontier running from Lubek through Eisenach to Trieste and down to Albania is a matter which requires a very great deal of argument conducted between good friends.

(Continued Tomorrow)

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Slumping Warriors Succumb To Chinese Athletic

Alfredo Oliveira's slumping Warriors succumbed to Frank Poon's Chinese Athletic Association by 8-3 in the feature Senior "A" softball tussle at King's Park yesterday. By virtue of this victory, the CAA may yet be among the first three teams in the circuit and the Warriors might well be relegated, and I shall not be surprised if either of these things happen at the close of the softball season.

On yesterday's show, the Warriors were literally a two-man team. Catcher Cuscuta, who is likely to go into the Portugal outfit in the International Series, must have added considerably to that valuation by the part he played behind the plate in the latest Warriors' defeat.

In his debut for the Warriors, right-fielder Gerry Remedios proved himself a steady outfielder. There was also strength in his batting. He recorded two hits in three times at bat.

There were signs in the first inning that the Warriors were prepared to make a great fight of it, but the challenge was not sustained in this battle for survival. The lustre of the unpredictable Warriors grew steadily more dim after pitcher Sonny Machado lost his touch in the second inning when he was replaced by Gogo Marques at the start of the third frame, the damage has already been done. The Chinese Athletic Association bullplayers were comfortably ahead by six runs.

The Warriors, vastly the inferior team in craft, were nevertheless superior in the hitting department. They out-hit their opponents by 9-4, but failed to capitalise on the hitting form of Ricky Azcuhelra, Jay Jay Javier and Gerry Remedios.

These efforts of Azcuhelra, Javier and Remedios would not have caused any criticism had they been turned to better account, but the CAA softballers had such speed and zest that they looked much like a team just beginning a new season with hopes of annexing the Pennant.

Oliveira's Warriors will not escape relegation unless they make better use of their chances than they did in the tussle. To date, the youthful Rexes and the US Navy, represented by the USS Cockrell, are trailing the Warriors, but there can be no denying that the sailors will improve when the highly-regarded USS Ora returns to Hongkong early next month.

It is the writer's opinion that unless the Warriors overcome their habit of changing their lineups in every game, they will taste the bitterness of relegation.

GONE IS THE RHYTHM

Gone was the rhythm which had so roused the enthusiasm of their supporters and brought visions of the Pennant. This must have been the fourth time that the Warriors' rosters have gone home from King's Park with that sinking feeling that the Warrior's machine was creaking and misfiring. I can only see two reasons for the series of setbacks. The first is the lack of leadership and coaching. On the other hand, there was drama in the Chinese Athletic Association softballers' successful fight to keep their hopes alive for the Pennant.

The CAA boys played a fast, skilful game and they did not spare themselves, nor their opponents. They concentrated so hard on victory that when "Showboat" Lee Poon-hong drove one over the fence the whole team reacted as if electrified.

They seldom squandered the few chances that came along and eight runs registered in the second and fifth frames were sufficient to give them a well-earned triumph.

The infielders, comprising first baseman C.M. Tsang,

second baseman Paul Tiu, third baseman Seldon Ma and shortstop K.T. "Rabbit" Lung, played some grand softball and on this showing, the Chinese Athletic Association are too good a side to finish far behind the leading teams.

It will be remembered that their best win was an 8-7 victory over the powerful Pandas last month, and if they can keep up their constructive play, without being showy, they are headed for better things in the second round contests.

The teams:—CAA: Pitcher—P.C. Wong; Catcher—L.P. Lam; 1st baseman—C.M. Tsang; 2nd baseman—Paul Tiu; 3rd baseman—Seldon Ma; Shortstop—K.T. Lung; Left-fielder—Y.Z. Yang; Centre-fielder—Lee Poon-hong; Right-fielder—K.K. Shum.

Warriors: Pitchers—Sonny Machado, Gogo Marques; Catcher—Cuscuta; 1st baseman—Jay Jay Javier; 2nd baseman—Ricky Azcuhelra; 3rd baseman—Gogo Marques; Shortstop—Johnny Pereira; Left-fielder—Jimmy Cheng; Centre-fielder—Alfredo Oliveira; Right-fielder—Gerry Remedios.

HAVES SHUT OUT REXES

Braves lifted their spirit out of the doldrums with a 10-0 shut-out victory over the Senior "B" Champions, the Rexes, in the opening Senior "A" game yesterday.

The Braves, who are in the throes of a bitter struggle to ward off the strong challenges of Jindoo Hussain's Saints and Jackie Wei's Pandas for the Pennant, produced that match-winning quality yesterday.

Pitcher Nazario of the Rexes was made the scapegoat. In the contest when the Braves' batters hit him all over the field for 12 hits. Prominent for the Braves were Carlos Yvonnovich, Hui Dhabber, Dick Chaves, Eddie Loureiro and Hank Killen.

The Braves-Rexes encounter was thrill-stuffed. Only fireworks came from the bats of the Braves and they began from the initial inning. Then there followed more fireworks in the third and fourth stanzas when no fewer than eight hits were scored by the Braves' heavy guns.

The final result was expected and was a gratifying one for manager Ed Carvalho and his stout-hearted Braves. It came from the back-to-front pitching performance of Kelly Silver-Netto and good support from catcher Manuel Gutierrez.

NOT WORRIED

Manager Jindoo Hussain, who took a trip to Macao, was evidently not worried about his

team's performance against Chev Teol's South China in the third Senior "A" game of the afternoon. Hussain was right when the Saints, behind the steady pitching of Salich, whipped the Carolines by 11-1 in another colourless tilt witnessed by a fair crowd of fans.

Against the Saints, the Carolines' play revealed glaring faults which may need time to eradicate. There was little comparison in the batting department, but it was in the fielding that the Saints dominated much of yesterday's play.

Outstanding fielder of the day was third-sacker Benny Omar whose crisp handling of sizzling grounders and knee-high balls drew him rounds of applause. First-class infield play by Omar, Dave Leonard, Bimbi Abiong and Ray Aldegaus snuffed the South China squad out of the picture and the Saints took charge practically in every inning.

For the Carolines, there were some shocking infield displays of fumbles. At the moment, the only concrete thing about this South China team is that inexperienced Dick Lau is a great trier and has a great personality. He is a fighter who has the ability to keep his head in the face of defeat.

Highlight of the game was George Saunders' home run in the bottom of the third. Hits

were also scored by Benny Omar, Ray Aldegaus, Salich and Sherry Bucks.

MILD UPSET

Bob Suzman's Americans, who had some terrible luck in the matter of departures of their stars, came back into the line-up by toppling Bill Silva's Delawares 12-7 in the Senior "B" game. The Yanks also earned the distinction of being the first team to lower the Delawares' colours and the man who accomplished much of this success was pitcher Daniel Remedios, making his debut for the Americans yesterday.

In their first round encounter, the Delawares trounced the Americans by 23-10. With Red Perera a conspicuous absentee yesterday, Jack Bordwell was automatic choice for the Americans behind the plate and Bordwell did a good job.

Versatile centre-fielder Wheeler topped their batting line with three hits, including a grand slam home run in the sixth inning to put the game on ice. Another good display came from Armstrong at second base and Claude Pugh at shortstop. The Junior League, the Chinese Athletic Association, maintained their unbeaten record by trouncing the Comets 10-3. The South China lassies scored another 13-3 win at the expense of the Chinese Athletic Association.

"SNOOPER"

MCC LEADS ALL-BERMUDA ON FIRST INNINGS

Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec. 20.

The MCC led the All-Bermuda eleven by 15 runs on first innings at close of play on the second day of their match here.

The MCC were dismissed for 148 just before lunch and dismissed the All-Bermuda XI for 133 by the close.

Gene Woods, lanky 18-year-old pace bowler, took five MCC wickets for 17 runs in a spell of one hour, dismissing Len Hutton, Suttle and Tom Graveney in four balls.

Woods, playing in his first cricket match, got plenty of pace and swing on the ball off the matting wicket, and later took two more wickets—those of Peter May and Rex Spooner. He finished with innings figures of five for 49.

Calvin Symonds, medium fast bowler, finished off the tally by taking four for 20. The MCC 100 for one over-right, lost nine wickets for 48 runs today.

Top scorer was Hutton with 49, only five of which were scored today.

OLD BOYS WIN

The annual soccer match between past and present pupils of King George V School ended in a convincing win for the "Old Boys" by three goals to one at the School ground yesterday.

Old Boys: D. Bottomley, R. Spencer, R. Heltmeyer, M. Salter, S. Fraser, D. Fraser, M. B. Carrell, P. McRae, M. Robertson, J. Tinson. School: D. Townsend, B. Booth, F. Waller, E. McCosh, J. Stevens, J. Deskin, J. Pink, J. Whitaker, R. Easton, T. Martin, J. Gillard.

Total				
Wickets	fell	at	69, 114, 114, 114, 119, 131, 142, 148, 148.	
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Woods	10	3	49	5
Hazel	11	2	28	1
Edwards	10	1	20	0
Symonds	14	3	29	4
Simmons	5	0	17	0

—Reuter.

MANY OF THE INCIDENTS WERE REALLY QUITE UNNECESSARY

Says I. M. MacTAVISH

It is a long time since so many obvious and violent fouls have passed inadequately punished as did in the Sing Tao-South China game. That 21 of the 22 players were still on the field at the end is merely an indication of the determination of some of them to see the game through, but it may be several days before a few of the players feel physical comfort again.

How some of the offenders escaped marching orders is a mystery for, as I understand the rules, there seemed more than fair justification for the referee to impose the harshest possible punishment.

I cannot remember when I last saw so many doubtful incidents in one game, and really they were quite unnecessary for in a playing sense there was only one team in the game in the long run... and it wasn't the Tigers.

Sing Tao struck rock-bottom in the second half of this match and it must be admitted that for once the tactics of Cheung Kam-hoi were in the main responsible for their poor display.

He started at centre-forward and had the appropriate figure 9 on his shirt, but any resemblance between him and a centre-forward was indeed hard to find. He caused havoc in the defence, his own defence, and things got so confused that in the end Honniball gave up trying to play his own position and moved to left-half with Cheung Kam-hoi at centre-half.

The Tigers' team plan of playing Ho Chung-yu at inside-right was a failure and the youngster ran himself into the ground trying to make something out of a hopeless forward muddle.

In the first half there was a fair ration of thrills and both goalkeepers gave a sound display, but the polish of the teams disappeared as feeling crept into the play.

If the referee had taken a firm stand as soon as this started, I believe that we would have seen a better game, but he let several offenders off lightly and the rot set in.

PAINFUL PUNCTUATION

Play became punctuated by regular injuries to players. Chu Wing-wah was an early casualty, and he was followed a few minutes later by Sin Yau-sang who was a passenger for the rest of the game.

The turning point came just before the interval when Kwok Yin-lok came crashing to the ground from a fierce tackle. The South China centre-forward was in great pain and he never really recovered for the duration of the game. The referee awarded a free kick, but in common with many spectators I felt that he should have taken a much sterner view.

The teams turned round with no score on the board and it was just about a fair reflection of the play.

Tragedy came to the Tigers just after the interval when in a bad mix-up in the goal area a defender turned the ball into his own net to put the Champions in the lead.

From this moment South China never looked back and goals came at regular intervals.

THE TEAMS

Sing Tao: Yui Yui-tak; Hau Yung-sang; Mok Kam-chung; Sik Pei-yin, Honniball, Sin Yau-sang; Yeung Wai-tao, Ho Cheung-yau, Cheung Kam-hoi, Lo Kan-cheung, Lou Chung-sang.

South China: Tam Nai-huen; Lau Ching-ping, Lau Yee, Lok Dai-hai, Ko Po-keung, Soong Ling-sing; Chu Wing-wah, Lee Yui-tak, Kwok Yin-lok, Yui Cheuk-yin, Tong Shueung.

ARMY 1, RAF 1. The most disappointing 1st Division game of the season was played at Sookumpoo on Saturday where the RAF and the Army shared the points, but where the Airmen took all the honours.

I wonder if you have ever looked through a list of shows and, attracted by a long list of star names, decided that this one MUST be good, only to find after you have taken your seat that it turns out to be one glorious flop.

That was the feeling experienced by the bulk of the spectators who saw this game. If they went along to see a high standard performance by the stars they were sadly disappointed, but if they are honest

they will admit that they saw three of the so-called lesser lights and they were all in Air Force blue—Boswell, Jones and little blonde-headed Martin.

TOO POOR TO BE TRUE

The football in this game was too poor to be true and for long periods the spectators were treated to bouts of hectic aimless kicking. There was little concerted play, and the Army side seemed to take the whole game much too easily and casually.

They seemed to have the idea that they could win just when they wanted. In the end they were lucky, indeed very lucky, to retain one point, and had Dalziel made use of a magnificent chance presented to him by Gilbey the biggest surprise of the season would have been complete.

On the Army side the only name that meant anything was Carey. The right back worked like a Trojan. He pushed the ball forward, he carried it forward, he did everything one man could do to raise some life in his mates, but in most cases all his prompting was wasted.

The biggest disappointment of the afternoon was Bennett who had an atrocious game. He squandered enough chances to have won the game a dozen times over and even with an open goal and the goalkeeper out of position he managed to get the ball past the post. Granger had little to do and is exempt from criticism, but the rest of the Army side will want to forget that this game ever took place and for the sake of the peace of mind of the Colony selectors it is to be hoped that many of them forget it soon.

THE MAIN HONOURS

In an enterprising RAF side the main honours go to Boswell, Jones and Martin although the heroic Gilbey and the crafty Dalziel are worthy of mention.

Boswell played Nash right out of the game. Jones, on the other hand, played Bennett in the out-field, never gave up his great defensive work.

Martin was the hardest worker afield and his blonde head was always in evidence. He fought like a tiger for every ball and in the end he was getting it more and more often. MacLaren was safe in goal.

Gilbey was injured early in the game and was off the field for about 15 minutes. In the second half he took over a roving mission in the centre berth and he was the undoing of the Army defence which was split open by his long accurate passes.

The goals were scored by Reeves for the soldiers just before the interval, and by Dalziel for the RAF eight minutes from the end of the game.

VERDICT: How are the mighty fallen. The Army side was but a shadow of its recent self and lucky to get away with a point. The RAF will often play better than this and be beaten, but with only two decent scoring chances they got one goal and one point. This was in strict contrast to the Army who had dozens of chances and threw them away.

Something seemed to go wrong with the referee's time-keeping. He was several minutes short in the second half—minutes that might have brought a RAF victory the way things were going.

THE TEAMS. RAF: MacLaren, Scott, Boswell, Martin, Jones, McFarlane, Tomlinson, Dalziel, Loader, Gilbey, Morgan.

Army: Granger, Casey, Wells, Stevens, Fryzer, Longland, Nash, Reeves, Bennett, Wingfield, Chiao.



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GUNNER ADEN WINS HKAAA CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Gunner R. J. Aden of Stanley Fort yesterday won the Annual HKAAA Cross Country Race over a course of approximately 5½ miles at San Wai in the New Territories. He was chased home by Sapper Lakhbahadur and Sapper Barman Pun of the 50 Field Engineers Regiment.

The winner of the Army Cross Country Championship, Gnr. Derek Coburn, did not start and the favourite to win the race in his absence, South China's Chan King-yin, got bogged down in a paddly field and lost much valuable ground, finishing sixth.

The Gurkhas of 50 Field Engineers, under the captaincy of Capt. J. M. Kennedy, who finished fifth, were easy winners of the Mrs Kwok Chan Challenge Shield, the team trophy, Sapper Lakhbahadur finishing 11th to make the team score 21 points (2, 3, 5 and 11).

The 1st Battalion, The Dorset Regiment, finished second in the team race. Gunner Aden ran a well-judged race, running behind the leaders until 400 yards from the finishing post.

At the half way mark he was lying fifth with Chan King-yin third and Sapper Barman Pun fourth.

Chan King-yin, who appeared to have plenty in hand, took the lead at the three-quarter way stage but very soon after ran into trouble. Trying to avoid a knee-deep stream that was on

the actual route of the race, he got bogged down in an adjoining paddly field and lost much ground extrajudging himself.

There were 117 starters, of whom 94 finished the course. The prizes were given away at the conclusion of the race by Mrs. White, wife of Colonel O. C. W. White, DSO, Vice-President of the Hongkong Amateur Athletic Association.

THE RESULTS
1. Gunner R. J. Aden (Stanley Fort). Time: 40 mins. 43.4 secs.
2. Sapper Lakhbahadur (50 Fd. Engr. Regt.). Time: 40 mins. 48.2 secs.

3. Sapper Barman Pun (50 Fd. Engr. Regt.). Time: 40 mins. 51.3 secs.
4. Pte. Thomson (1 Bn. Welch Regt.). Time: 41 mins. 23.2 secs.

5. Capt. J. R. M. Kennedy (50 Fd. Engr. Regt.). Time: 41 mins. 26.7 secs.
6. Chan King-yin (SCAA). Time: 41 mins. 53.9 secs.
7. Wood (RAF Sg. Kong). Time: 42 mins. 1.1 secs.

8. Cpl. Adams (1 Bn. Dorset Regt.). Time: 42 mins. 23.2 secs.
9. 2/Lt. Hudson (72 LAA Regt., RA, Whitfield Barracks). Time: 42 mins. 23.2 secs.
10. L/Cpl. Reid (1 Bn. Dorset Regt.). Time: 42 mins. 23.2 secs.

TEAM PLACINGS
Team Placings (10 teams competing with first four runners of each team to complete the course to count).
1. 50 Fd. Engr. Regt. with 21 points (Spr. Lakhbahadur (second), Spr. Barman Pun (third), Capt. J. R. M. Kennedy (fifth) and Spr. Ranbahadur (11th)).

2. 1 Bn. Dorset Regt. with 52 points (Cpl. Adams, L/Cpl. Reid, Pte. Preddy, and 2/Lt. Corp.).
3. 1 Bn. Welch Regt. with 86 points.

DAVIS CUP TEAMS FOR THE "Final"
Brisbane, Dec. 19. The United States and Australia each named four-man teams here tonight for the challenge round of the Davis Cup, starting in Melbourne on December 28.

Bill Talbert, 35-year-old captain of the United States team is included in his side. The others are Tony Trabert, the American singles champion, Vic Seixas, Wimbledon title holder, and Hamilton Richardson.

Australia named Ken Rosewall, Mervyn Rose, Lewis Hoad and Rex Hartwig.

The singles players in each team will not be known until the draw is made on December 26 and the doubles pairings need not be disclosed until an hour before play on December 29.—Reuter.

NAVY TOOK TOP HONOURS IN SATURDAY'S RUGGER

By "PAK LO"

Saturday afternoon's rugger brought the end of the first round of the Pentangular Tournament with the Navy taking top honours followed closely by the Army, when the sailors easily defeated the Club by 19 points (2 goals, 3 tries) to nil, and the Army won by 16 points (2 goals, 2 tries) to nil over a hard trying but unsuccessful RAF team.

These two important matches were preceded by a friendly between the 7th Royal Tanks and the Club "B" which the Tanks won by 11 points (1 goal, 2 tries) to 0 (3 tries).

The Army kicked off and attacked at once and before many minutes had passed the soldiers scored when, from a set scrum, the three were sent away and Paine crossed the line near the corner flag.

Dangerfield took the long kick and very neatly put the ball between the posts to give the Army a five point lead.

The RAF recovered quickly from this blow, and pressing hard, took the lead by a line dive over the line. Gerard missed the kick, leaving the final score at Army 10, RAF 0.

The Army did not fit together so well this time, but that was mainly due to the hard work of the RAF backs who tackled well. Argyle kept his three well supplied with some lovely passes and Gerard, who was playing his last game for the Army, was as brilliant as usual.

The Army's main weakness scored at one point when they went blind from a set scrum, but the cross kick was sliced and the ball went over the dead ball line.

Gerard twice in this half had lovely runs on his own but each time passed forward and spoiled what seemed certain scores. Half time was reached without any further score.

The Army had had the territorial advantage most of the half and only good tackling by the RAF stopped the Army's three from getting going. The soldiers had one glaring fault in this half and that was their failure to heel the ball cleanly out of the set scrums. Time and again the ball stuck in the second and third rows, thus allowing the RAF loose forwards time to get round to do their spoiling.

SECOND HALF
The second half opened with the RAF attacking, but the Army cleared with a long kick and then attacked to the 25-

yard line, where, from a set scrum, the ball went to Paine who, opening up the RAF backs with a neat side step, passed to Gerard who appeared to knock the ball going loose over the line. Gerard dived on it to bring the score to 8 points to nil as the long kick was narrowly missed.

Some midfield play followed and the Airman were pressing hard and a forward pass at this point spoiled a very line move which might have ended up as a try.

The Army attacked again and, from a set scrum, the ball went to Dangerfield who avoided a couple of men and scored under the posts, then easily converting his own try to make the score 13 points to nil.

In the closing moments the Army three got away again, and Paine, running fast, passed inside to Collins who followed up fast and ran well, avoiding a last minute tackle by a line dive over the line. Gerard missed the kick, leaving the final score at Army 16, RAF 0.

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scrum it was noticeable that some of them were terribly nervous in getting down, and even slower in getting up.

The Navy opened the scoring when Smith got the ball from a scrum end, evading four men quite easily, scored near the post and followed up by converting, 5-0.

In the second half the Navy settled down and proceeded to harass the Club line and, Bateman backing up fast, took an inside pass as a went over to score. Smith sliced his kick and the score was 8-0.

The Club now did some attacking but it was always Cragg, Turville and Watson who did the work while the forwards looked on from a long way behind, and as a result failed to get very far before the Navy tackled them and took the ball away.

Then the Navy took the ball at their feet to the Club 5-yard line and from the scrum the ball went to Lloyd, who doubled back and broke through the Club pack on the blind side but it was really the whole of the Club pack watched him break through without doing much to stop him. Smith took the long kick and succeeded in the conversion, 13-0.

Then there was some scrappy play with the ball going back and forth between the Club 25 and the half way line, until Moore running well, crossed the line. Smith again took the long kick and this time saw the ball bounce from the upright, 16-0.

The Navy attacked again and Henderson was caught on his own line with the ball and the Navy sent the ball over the line for Wikeley to touch down. The long kick and long kick just before the final whistle, 19-0.

SHOULD EXPERIMENT
The Navy were a little unsettled this time, but could still get together enough to do the necessary damage. The Club, who now have little chance of winning the Pentangular, should experiment to the full in preparation for next season.

Rumour has it that Johnnie Henderson will hang up his boots on Wednesday's game when Commander McClintock's XV, consisting of many old players, takes on HMS Tyne, and perhaps more of the others will follow his example and give

the youngsters a chance. The first game of the afternoon was rather scrappy and the Club "B" lost because they did not have anyone capable of kicking from in front of the posts.

The Tanks rolled over the Club "B", and scored two tries while the "B"s were still trying to find their feet. In fact had it not been for Bell, who played an almost faultless game at full back, Club "B" would have been much worse off than they were.

Then in the second half Club "B" got going and first Baird and then Russell scored, and then Baird, who had kicked ahead, found the Tank's full-back's kick go smack into his arms and a very surprised Baird ran very fast to score under the posts.

In the closing minutes Berry, who had played excellently for the Tanks, broke through on the blind and scored and Carlyle converted to bring the score to 11 points to 9 in the Tanks' favour.

The Club "B" forwards need a good leader as they were seen to have a long lineout near their own line and lost the ball to the Tanks as a result.

The Club forwards must jump higher in the lineouts and pass, not put, back. The Tanks backed up well but their passing was very ragged and spoiled many a good move. The score was just right as the Tanks had the territorial advantage most of the time.

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Recreio And Optimists Move Up In The First Division Table

By "THE ZOMBIE"

Recreio and Optimists each moved up one step in the Senior Division Cricket League table as a result of good wins scored in their postponed matches during the week-end.

Recreio is now 13 points behind League-leading Army, five points behind second-placed Scorpions and one point ahead of Optimists.

In the Second Division games, Dockyard kept close tag of the unbeaten Army XI with a narrow win by 25 runs over Recreio, while RAF maintained third place with a comfortable victory over IRC.

Both the First Division games produced good cricket with the honours evenly shared by bowlers and batsmen. IRC started off promisingly against Optimists and looked good for a sizable score when A. R. Kitchell and A. K. Markar brought the fourth wicket total to 89 runs.

The Indians' tail-end batsmen, however, had the misfortune to come up against a brilliant spell of bowling by Spink and Mahon. Spink dismissed the last four batsmen at a cost of under 20 runs.

SHAKY START
Optimists opened their innings rather shakily, losing two quick wickets for only eight runs. Rory Macpherson came to the rescue with another of his typical Fireworks innings to bring the score up to 63 and

lay the foundation for Optimists' eventual five-wicket win. Recreio claimed top honours in both batting and bowling in their match against RAF. An undefeated innings of 78 by A. E. Noronha and 87 by Gerry Gosano against RAF's arm of seven bowlers enabled them not only to set up a new mark this season for a second wicket partnership but also to put Recreio in a winning position with a total of 187 runs for one wicket declared.

"Spotty" Pereira struck early when he clean bowled West for only four runs, and continued to create havoc among the Airman by dismissing Armstrong, Taylor and Hughes in succession with only 26 runs up on the board.

With the two Gosano brothers, Gerry and Eddie, lending able support, the RAF could only muster up 78 runs, their lowest score for a completed innings this season. Pereira finished with the fine analysis of six wickets for 28 runs.

HOW THEY STAND
First Division
Army ... P. W. D. T. L. Pts.
Scorpions ... 9 5 2 1 1 24
Recreio ... 9 4 1 1 3 10
Optimists ... 0 4 2 0 3 18
Navy ... 10 3 3 0 4 15
IRC ... 10 2 5 0 3 13
RAF ... 10 2 4 0 4 12
DCC ... 11 2 3 0 0 11
KCC ... 10 2 3 0 5 11
HKU ... 7 1 3 0 3 7

Second Division
Army ... 10 10 0 0 0 40
Dockyard ... 9 7 1 0 1 29
RAF ... 10 6 1 0 3 25
Polic ... 7 5 0 0 2 20
Navy ... 7 4 1 0 2 17
DCC ... 10 3 2 0 0 14
IRC ... 8 3 0 0 6 12
Recreio ... 7 3 0 0 4 12
KCC ... 9 1 2 0 6 6
KGV ... 9 0 1 0 8 1
HKU ... 4 0 0 0 4 0

Manila, Dec. 21. Belgium's Davis Cup team, a recent loser to America's Cup squad in the Inter-Zone finals to qualify against Australia in the Challenge Round, will be arriving here on January 2 for a series of invitational matches against local net stars.

The main feature of the visit will be the Belgium-Philippine meet along Davis Cup lines slated to be played off on January 8, 9 and 10.

The Philippine Davis Cup pair of Felisiano Ampon and Raymond Deyo, the same team that met Italy's Cup outfit in a similar invitational series in December, last year, will tackle the Belgians.

This will be the first Belgium-Philippine tennis match and will also see Kent Junior Champion Johnny Jose of the Philippines pitted against the Belgians.

The Belgium squad consists of non-playing Captain Pierre Geelhand, Philippine Washer and Jacques Brichant. — France-Press.

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"FAKHOT" ... Shanghai ... 3 p.m. 24th Dec.
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Scheduled Sailings from Europe
Sails ... Arrives
S. "ANCHISES" ... Liverpool ... 28th Dec.
S. "CLYTONES" ... do ... 28th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX" ... do ... 8th Jan. 1954
S. "PYRRHUS" ... do ... 13th Jan. 1954
S. "EUMAEUS" ... 18th Dec. ... 25th Jan. 1954
S. "ASCANIUS" ... 24th Dec. ... 20th Jan. 1954
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PERSONAL

Sir Man Kian and Lady Lo take this opportunity to wish all their relatives and friends a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, and to reciprocate all wishes received. They hope they may be excused for not sending out individual greetings.

MUSICAL

RECOMMENDED Christmas LP records Dupre Stations of the Cross for Organ, French six pieces, Trolis pieces, piano, Minstrel, Russian Chorus, available D. Eames, 4A Des Voeux Road, Room 1, 2nd floor, Tel. 3010.

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are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 18th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown and all goods remaining undelivered after the 24th December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 24th December, 1953, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected
DODWELL & CO., LTD.
Agents
Hongkong, 18th December, 1953.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

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M.S. "RIFUKU MARU"

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No Fire Insurance will be effected
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Hongkong, 18th December, 1953.

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Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 21st December, 1953.

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DODWELL & CO., LTD.
Agents
Hongkong, 18th December, 1953.

Christmas Mail Rush

Ottawa, Dec. 20.
The Ottawa Post Office tripled its staff to handle the Christmas mail rush.
In the last week or so, official mail, Ottawans mailed more than 1,000,000 cards and letters a day. On peak days, parcels numbered some 20,000.
Forty extra trucks were added to the regular fleet of 20, and some 600 seasonal workers, most of them college and high school students, were taken on to bring the handling staff to 1,500.
Postal officials said it was not hard to find temporary employees. Few, however, wanted jobs as carriers or other outside work.—United Press.

On The Scrapheap

A regular caller at Southampton, the 19,000-ton Holland-America liner Veendam, has made her last Atlantic crossing.

The Veendam, built on the Clyde 30 years ago, is to be broken up at Baltimore. The Veendam steamed 1,832,000 miles during her lifetime.—London Express Service.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m/v "CHANGSHIA"
Arrived 19th December, 1953.
Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Godown at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 22nd December and Thursday, 24th December, 1953, and consignees representatives are requested to be present during survey.

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ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN

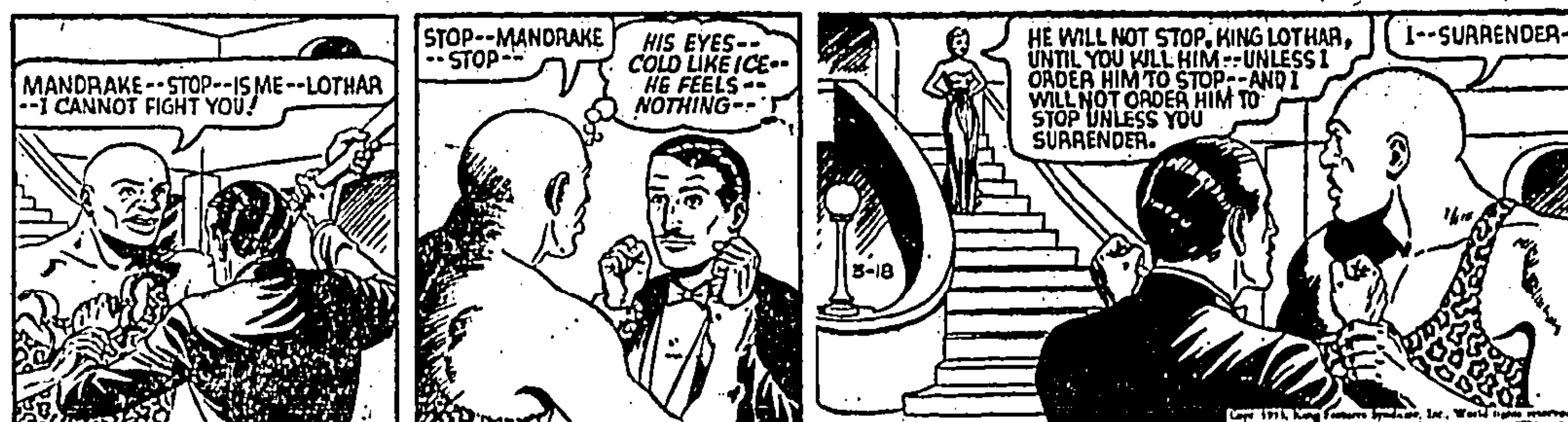
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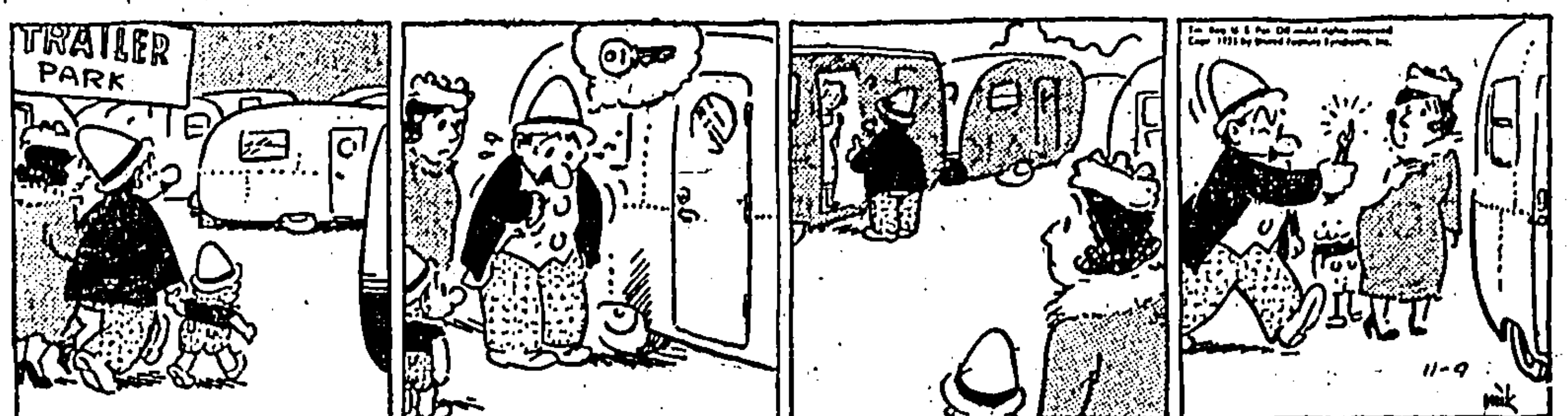
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Home Sweet Home

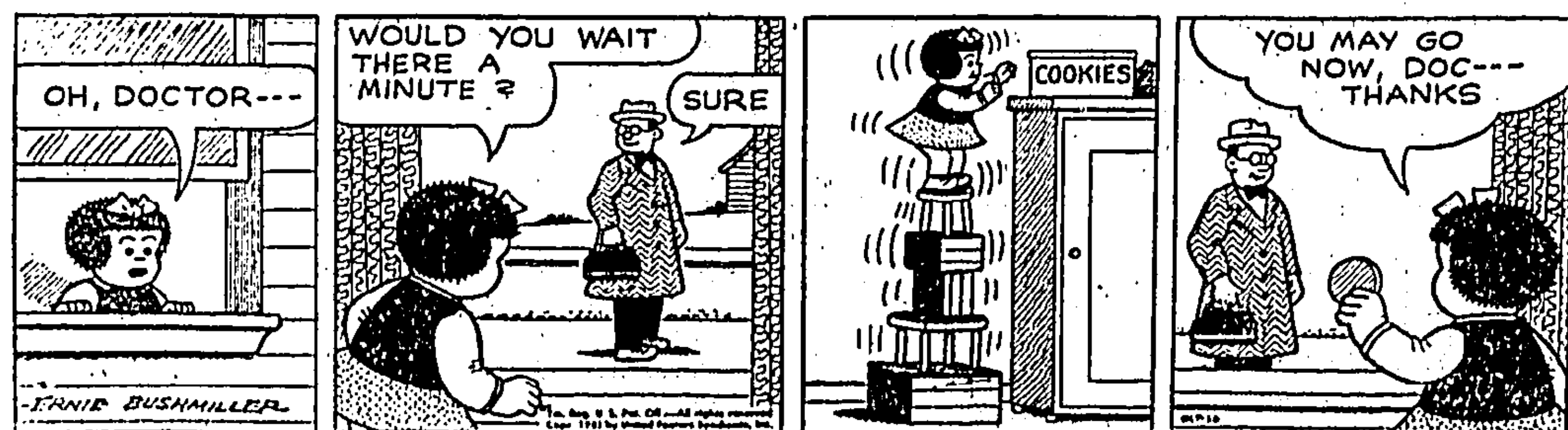
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"CANTON" 10th January 12th February
"CARTHAGE" 4th February 8th March
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Homewards Leaves Hongkong Due London
"CORFU" 16th January 15th February
"CHUSAN" 1st February 1st March
"CANTON" 15th February 10th March
"CARTHAGE" 12th March 12th April
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"TRESILLIAN" 16th January For Straits, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, Glasgow, Liverpool, North Continent.
"SOCOTRA" 3rd January For Straits, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, London, North Continent.
"SUNDA" 5th January For Straits, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, London, North Continent.

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"WARORA" due 6th Jan. from Japan
sails 7th Jan. for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta
"ANSHUN" due 10th Jan. from Japan
sails 11th Jan. for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta

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"UMARIA" due 21st Dec. from Karachi, Bombay
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All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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Satellite Countries Vote

London, Dec. 20.
Top speed voting characterised elections in Bulgaria and Rumania today.

Bulgaria's 4,750,000 electors were voting to fill 249 seats in the National Assembly — for which there were 249 candidates — all sponsored by the Communist-led Fatherland Front.

In Rumania the electorate of 10,400,000 was voting for 135,000 local and district councillors, with as many candidates, all belonging to the National Front, as there were vacancies.

Sofia Radio claimed the voting record was held by the village of Petranik, in the Pirin (the south-west corner of Bulgaria, bordering on Yugoslavia and Greece), where a 100 per cent vote had been cast 30 minutes of the opening of the polling booths at 0700.

PENALTIES

(Penalties for abstainers included fines or imprisonment.)

Polling ended in Bulgaria at 1800, but in hundreds of towns and villages, including the Macedonian villages bordering on Yugoslavia, 100 per cent of the electorate had voted in the early morning, Sofia Radio said.

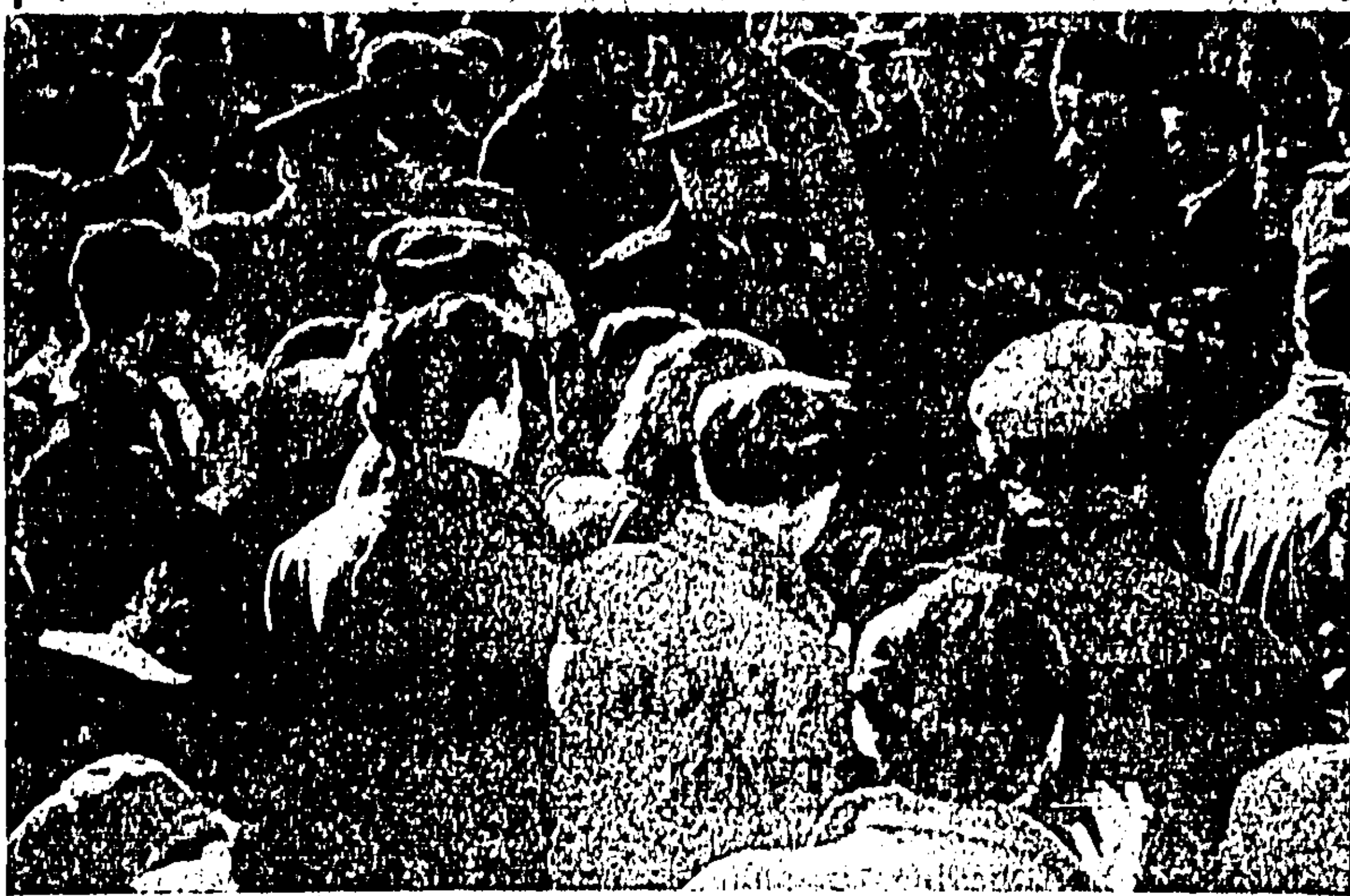
In Bucharest, the first snow-fall, as voters went to the polls, according to Bucharest Radio. In Rumania the poll was to remain open till midnight and men and women, waiting their turn to vote, amused themselves by singing and dancing outside the gaily decorated booths.

In both countries men and women over 18 voted.—Reuters.

BLACK MAGIC
PLAIN CHOCOLATES

...this situation calls for a
San Miguel

Tito Agrees To Withdraw Troops



Speaking at Jajce, Bosnia, the mountain town and former stronghold, during celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the foundation of Communist Yugoslavia, President Tito (walking among townfolk) indicated that he was ready to agree to the simultaneous withdrawal of Yugoslav and Italian troops from the Italo-Yugoslav frontier.—Express Photo.

Canadian Christmas Most Opulent In History Of Country

Ottawa, Dec. 20.

For the great majority of Canadians, the coming Christmas will be the most opulent in history, although for some a shadow of uneasiness will cast itself across the festive board.

For most people, the two ingredients for the maximum material joys of Christmas are present—more money than even before and shops literally overloaded with merchandise of every description, ranging from motorcars to foodstuffs.

The end of the shooting war in Korea has lifted a load of anxiety from the minds of relatives of Canadian troops serving there.

For those working in industry there never was a more secure Christmas. Production in most lines is going full blast and employment is five per cent higher on the whole than a year ago, despite drops in some sections.

Trained young men and women graduating from trades schools and Universities are being eagerly snapped up. Great expansion in mining, manufacturing and the petrochemical industries has vastly expanded horizons and opportunities.

Yet there are many for whom the Christmas lights will not

Sin Cleansing: Not For Soviets

Moscow, Dec. 20. A Soviet Georgian newspaper criticized a "religious festival" held near Tiflis where chickens were sacrificed and their blood smeared on a girl's forehead "to cleanse her of sin."

The strange rites, described by the newspaper Zarya Vostoka, were carried out recently in the Gurubansk district, 13 miles from Tiflis, Georgian capital.

Zarya Vostoka said hundreds of chickens and sheep were offered as sacrifices. The shrieks of women were heard, and someone suggested that a young girl should swallow stones "to save her soul."

Though the newspaper considered this "superstitious performance" a big joke, the editorial writer was indignant that "certain village Communists and trade and police officials" came to watch.

Apparently, local officials even sent ice-cream supplies to the festival—and police had to separate "those who got blind drunk and came to blows, while showing excessive zeal in their desire to please the Lord."—China Mail Special.

A Home In An Armoured Car

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 20. Brazil's Mint is to purchase a small fleet of armoured cars to transport money and valuables from city to city.

Built on a 14-ton Mack chassis, the fully-armoured cars will be able to carry a load of ten tons of valuables and will be fitted out comfortably to enable guards to live in them on long journeys.

Seats, which can be transformed at night into beds, will be installed in the small living room. A minute kitchen and a complete sanitary system will also be fitted in the cars.—China Mail Special.

glow with accustomed brightness. Western Canada's farmers, glutted with wheat and livestock, are worrying about where they are going to sell their produce.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Employment in the textile industries is down ten per cent compared with 1951 owing to decreased buying and foreign competition. The prospect of a trade agreement with Japan has not helped the outlook in these quarters.

Ontario's large gold mining areas have been paralysed by a bitter strike which has already lasted many weeks and may go on all the winter. Privation has already come to what was once Canada's most favoured region. Miners are walking the streets seeking credit; merchants are closing their premises. Once a flourishing town is dying of economic anæmia.

Mild weather for the second successive winter has cast a gloom over fur dealers and their retailers. Sales are down by 18 per cent.

With the general election out of the way and the Liberal Government firmly in power for another four years at least, great things are expected on the home front. The Government has announced its intention of speeding up home-building by reducing the down payment on moderate-sized homes to ten per cent.

This stimulus to building trades and all the associated enterprises is expected to keep employment and wages high.

Although the Government has said that it cannot relax its defence programme, everyone expects an income tax reduction of some proportions in the Federal budget next April.

Many retailers have inventories considerably higher than a year ago. There may be a drastic pricing of retail prices before Christmas actually comes. In most Canadian homes, the pocketbook is fat and the Christmas gift list is long. There is, with some exceptions, a quickly confident feeling that even better things are on the way.

Canada's Christmas for 1953 will, for the most part, be an affluent one.—China Mail Special.

CINEMAS FULL

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 20. Treasury officials here reported that despite economic caused by the rubber slump the Malayan man-in-the-street is still packing the cinemas.

Bars, restaurants and other pleasure businesses reported difficult times, but taxes from cinemas are hardly affected.—Reuter.

She Preferred Death To Pinball Games

Tokyo, Dec. 20.

The current Japanese penchant for "pinchinks"—a pinball game parlours opened behind her home—indirectly resulted in the death of a 31-year-old mother and her five-year-old son, police said here.

The mother who lives in the Osaka area had a nervous breakdown after five "pinchinks" parlours opened behind her home. She told police she slept in a closet to escape the noise of rolling steel balls and recorded music.

Finally she gave her son an overdose of sleeping pills and took some herself.—China Mail Special.

Costly Gift For Singapore

Singapore, Dec. 20.

A 60-foot mural from the Festival of Britain, which the British Government presented to Singapore, is proving an expensive gift.

So far it has cost the colony nearly £400,000 to cover freight and installation costs—after workmen at the Victoria Memorial Hall made the expensive mistake of putting the mural up outside the hall instead of inside.

The 37-panel mural had to be taken down hurriedly and re-erected inside before Singapore's humid weather and rain spoiled it.

The mural, "Cavalcade of the Commonwealth," was painted by Polish artist, Felix Topolski.—China Mail Special.

Indian Citizenship Rights

New Delhi, Dec. 20.

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, is expected to pay a four-day visit to New Delhi in the middle of January.

Sir John will resume discussions with Prime Minister Nehru on outstanding Indo-Ceylon problems, including the question of citizenship rights for Indian settlers in the island.

Mr. Nehru and the former Ceylonese Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, discussed these problems in London last June when they met for the coronation.—Reuter.

COLOMBO PLAN

Commonwealth Talks Will Be Held Next Year

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The second annual report of the Colombo Plan was published at an appropriate time. For it will take up a good deal of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' time when they meet in Sydney early next month.

The Colombo Plan for South and South-East Asia differs in one very important respect from the wider plan for Commonwealth development. Its primary object is to prevent a drastic decline in living standards—even mass starvation—in an area whose population is growing at the rate of 8 million a year.

Emphasis is therefore on projects designed to expand food production.

On the other hand, the aims of the Commonwealth development plan as outlined by Commonwealth Prime Ministers at their London Economic Conference last year to "strengthen the economy of countries concerned and increase their competitive power in world markets and so by improving their balance of payments, bring increasing prosperity to their people."

Efforts are therefore concentrated on expanding production either for export or to reduce dependence on imports.

But though the Colombo Plan and the wider plan for Commonwealth development differ in scope and purpose, they are faced with essentially the same problems.

THREE CONDITIONS

According to its latest report, the success of the Colombo Plan depends on three conditions:

1. development programmes must concentrate on essentials and make the fullest use of all resources, human, material and financial;

2. developing countries must follow sound internal policies designed to check inflation and secure the highest possible level of saving and investment;

3. the present flow of external aid must be continued and if possible increased.

The second of these conditions is probably the most important for it is generally recognised that the rate and range of economic development depend to a large extent to which the country concerned is prepared to help itself.

INCREASED SAVINGS

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers stressed this principle. The amount of savings which would be available from external sources, they said, would at best be small in relation to the size of the development programmes.

It was therefore essential that countries concerned should themselves adopt policies which would increase the flow of savings.

The Prime Ministers realised however that this would inevitably be a slow process for countries with low incomes and little margin above basic needs of existence.

The Colombo Plan report puts the same thoughts into slightly different words. "The burden of economic development programmes in any country," it says, "has to be borne in main from the resources of the country itself. External aid can greatly assist the process and may even at certain stages be vital if the vicious circle of lack of saving and lack of development is to be broken."

But however important it can only be supplemental.

It is therefore necessary for countries of the area to make the maximum effort to mobilise their own resources.

SELF HELP NEEDED

The question then is not only how much money other countries can afford to invest in economic development of backward areas, but also what they can do to help them to help themselves.

One obvious way is by teaching the people of developing countries to work more efficiently—teach a valuable form of saving. This method has in fact already been adopted by some Colombo Plan countries with the help of experts from other parts of the Commonwealth.

Up-to-date farming methods are being taught by such means as agricultural extension services, radio, the report, and Governments are making efforts to inspire the wish for new knowledge and better ways of life.

The practice is spreading of local communities helping themselves by providing for their own needs, for example, by building roads and schools or signing wells and small irrigation canals with their own voluntary labour.

But apart from giving technical advice, more advanced countries can do little to help their less fortunate partners to help themselves. Most of the recognised methods of effecting internal savings are of a kind that can be put into practice only by the governments of the countries concerned.

Safe Crackers On The Air

Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dec. 20.

Radio listeners were treated to an unusual programme tonight—a microphone interview with two burglars caught with the loot.

The two reluctant artists, who had cracked and emptied a safe in a commercial office in a main street of Sao Paulo, lost their way while climbing over the adjoining rooftops.

They clambered through a window to what they thought would lead them to safety but it turned out to be the radio auditorium where a "quiet" programme was in progress.

The masters of ceremonies grabbed them, hauled them in front of the "micro" and interviewed them for the benefit of listeners before handing them over to the police.—China Mail Special.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Dec. 20.

Stocks advanced during the past week after a long series of declines.

The rise centred on one session—Wednesday—although the final session of the week also was a good one.

Many in financial circles felt that the upturn heralded the beginning of the traditional year-end rally. Such rallies developed, it is noted, because of the absence of tax selling, and the reinvestment of funds received in interest and dividend payments.

Selling to establish tax losses has been heavy this year, according to market experts. It has centred on the low-priced issues. Traders have been restricted to sell the high-grade.

Demand for the top ranking issues for investment funds, pension funds and other institutions has kept their prices high. This week's market enjoyed good leadership in the "blue chip" department.

There was nothing in the news to affect prices either way. A few special items affected special stocks. These included colour television announcement which brought demand for Radio Corporation; a capital simplification plan which brought gains into preferred issues of American woolen, and a few others.

Trading increased with daily average volume at 1,092,411 shares, against 1,413,847 shares daily in the previous week.

Industrialists on Wednesday made their best showing, since last October by rising more than three points. They closed the week at 283.54, an increase of 2.33 points. Last week they averaged 2.80 points.

The rails rose too but their showing was poor compared with the industrialists. Rails finished at 97.02, up 80 cents in the previous week they lost 2.11 points.

With a rise of 86 cents the general average of 65 stocks closed at 107.44. It lost 1.27 points in the previous week. Utilities lost 28 cents.—United Press.

Pakistan Buying Jap Textiles

Karachi, Dec. 20.

Commerce Minister Taffazul All said today imports of cotton cloth from Japan, on private account would be licensed in the next shipping period as provided in the Japan-Pakistan trade agreement.

The Minister, who took office only ten days ago, told reporters between 30 and 35 million rupees worth of cotton textiles would be imported from Japan on government account under recent provision for government purchase of 40 million rupees worth of cotton textiles abroad.

When the government purchased cloth had arrived, he said, about 10 million rupees worth of cloth purchases would be licensed on private account.—United Press.

U.K. SHARES FIRM

Market Took Strike Threat In Its Stride

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Dec. 20.

The Stock Exchange reacted with surprising calm to the National Union of Railwaymen's threat to call out their 400,000 members unless their wage demand was met.

Such a strike would have paralysed the nation's transport system and precipitated an economic crisis even greater than that of 1947.

While talks were going on in the early part of the week between the Government and the Transport Commission and the Union, gilt-edged and industrial prices were marked down to forestall any large volume of selling.

But this never materialised though the market naturally remained subdued.

On Monday and Tuesday, while efforts were being made to avert a strike, prices declined only fractionally. Next day, with the first rumours that the strike was off, they showed a marked recovery.

The threatened rail strike and the usual pre-Christmas lull were partly offset however by a number of cheerful features in the industrial share market. As a result the Financial Times industrial share price index actually finished a shade up on the week.

COURTAULDS RISE

The announcement by Courtaulds of a one for one scrip issue together with a forecast of a total dividend on new capital equivalent to 7 per cent (against an equivalent of 5½ per cent on the old) were largely responsible for last week's optimism.

This sent Courtaulds' shares rocketing 5/8 to 50 7/8 and led to renewed interest in other rayon issues.

But though this benefited the textile section as a whole the rise would no doubt have been even greater had it not been for the gloomy statement from Lancashire Cotton Corporation that group profits were down again this year from £4 million to £3.4 million.

Two years ago they were £7 million.

SAVOY WAR ENDS

The corporation paid out 20 per cent (including a 5 per cent "Coronation bonus") against 15 per cent for each of the previous two years, but even this sweetener did not prevent its shares falling 2/6 to 40 shillings.

A rise of 2/3 to 52/6 in the shares of the Imperial Chemical Industries was another satisfactory feature of the market. This was due to reports that following the introduction of work study methods, output in one department had risen 10 per cent while the labour force had been reduced 23 per cent.

Savings through work study in a single year, according to one report, amounted to £1.5 million.

Among the more speculative issues, interest began to wane in Savoy shares following last week's sell-off by Mr Samuel who had been bidding for control of the group to the directors "and their friends."

There was nevertheless a sharp increase in the price of the shares from 45 shillings on Monday to 52 shillings on Wednesday on the belief that the Savoy directors would soon have to justify the price of 62/6 they paid for each of Mr Samuel's shares. But on their continued silence, the price fell back to 48/3.

Elsewhere markets were generally quiet. Tens were firm on higher auction prices obtained for the commodity but rubbers turned easier.

Goldmining shares were also quiet, demand being selective.

International Sugar Agreement

London, Dec. 19.

The International Sugar Agreement of 1938 has been ratified and will go into effect on January 1, the International Sugar Council announced today.

The Council said in a published statement, "the delegations attending the current series of meetings of the Council in London announced the election of Baron Paul Krenschöcker, head Belgian delegate, as chairman of the Council for 1954."

"Mr E.P. Kelly, CBE, head of the United Kingdom delegation, was elected vice-chairman."—United Press.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 19.

Cotton futures, reversing three weeks of sagging prices, ran up gains ranging to \$1.15 a bale despite a sharp slump on Thursday.

The market, meeting some local and mill demand, advanced in four out of five sessions.

At Friday's close, the list ruled six points lower to 23 points higher—or 30 cents a bale lower to \$1.15 a bale higher than last Friday.

Market observers pointed out that trading during the week was mainly an inter-market operation, reflecting mostly from the Far West, particularly California where loan differentials have encouraged freer selling, continued to appear on moderate advances. Price fixing has been only routine and generally limited to subcontracts.

Uncertainties as to what form the new farm legislation will take when Congress reconvenes has restricted exports. Most foreign spinners appeared disinclined to make any commitments until after Congress has acted.

The decline on Thursday reflected hedging and liquidation in the face of their demand. Fairly heavy New Orleans selling in the New York market also was a factor.

Traders believe, the cotton acreage allotment for 1954 will be increased slightly over 3,000,000 bales to 21,000,000 bales.

This prospect and some disappoinment over the size of loan entries last week accounted for some of the selling on Thursday.

The government reported entries into the loan for the week ended Dec. 11 of 370,302 bales, bringing the total for the season to 4,040,407 bales.—United Press.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$621,448.58. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

DANKS
HK Bank ... 1605 20 @ 10.10
INSURANCES
Lombard ... 56 1/2
Union ... 840 845

SHIPPING
Waterfront ... 1.15
Asia ... 1.15

DOCKS, ETC.
R. Wharf ... 50 @ 84 1/2
Dock ... 12.00 21 1/2 @ 21.50
Provident ... 12.00 12 1/2 @ 12.50
Wholesale ... 8.05 8.10 @ 8.10

LAND, ETC.
The Hotel ... 5.00 8.70 @ 8.85
H.C. Land ... 7 1/2 @ 7.50 7 1/2 @ 7.50
Humphreys ... 1.70 400 @ 7.50
Really ... 1.00 1.00 @ 1.00 1.00

UTILITIES
Tram ... 26.40 1.00 @ 26 1/2
Star Ferry ... 145 149
C. Light (N) 10.70 13.90 @ 13.90
C. Light (S) 10.70 11.00 @ 10.80
Electric ... 22.20 20.10 @ 20.10
Macao Elec ... 10.70 800 @ 10.80
Telephone ... 27.20 1.00 @ 27.20

INDUSTRIALS
Cement ... 10.20 200 @ 10
Rope ... 10.00
Stores, ETC.
Dairy ... 23.25 500 @ 23
500 @ 23.50
200 @ 23.50
Watson ... 21.40 21.70 @ 21.50
Cottons
Grove ... 8.00 @ 7
Textile ... 7 8.00 @ 7
MISCELLANEOUS
Yangtze ... 6.20 6 1/2 @ 6.20 6 1/2

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local market for exchange rates this morning at the following rates:
U.S. dollar (per \$1) ... 5.76
Starting note (per \$1) ... 5.76
Indonesian rupiah (per 100) ... 21.50
Siam baht (per 100) ... 21.50
Singapore dollar (per 100) ... 21.50
Indo-China piastre (per 100) ... 21.50

